

How I Became-ALL ARTS

I was surfing the web and I found this wonderful video, "[How I became a 'Self-Hating Jew'](#)". This clearly intelligent & sensitive young woman's heart shines brightly. Her descriptions of her encounters with Zionists & their supporters is just heart-breaking. More and more people need to see the obvious; Israel is a terrorist, racist, theocratic, and soul-killing country. It's not good for the Palestinians, the Bedouins, not even the Jewish people themselves. I'm glad Carey Wedler gets it. I hope other young people understands this, too.

I've copied, pasted & assembled the articles she refers to in this informational document.

For further info, please go to the web addresses—URLs—directly below the title.

All web addresses—URLs—are up-to-date as of Tuesday, June 12th, 2018.

By: A Critical Thinker

^ How I Became a "Self-Hating Jew"

8:49 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QLDE4mRwfSQ>

By: [CAREY WEDLER](#) 45K Views: 490,146 Published: Aug 11, 2014



Sometimes you have to ask questions.

If you like this video, please like, share, & subscribe to this channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/careyelizabeth824>

Find me on Facebook & Twitter: <https://www.facebook.com/CareyWedler>

<https://www.twitter.com/careyinrogue>

If you'd like to help me produce quality content to promote the message of peace,
freedom & love, please donate BTC!:

Bitcoin: 1E7G2kmUAiEJu3b46E52TSzWY7pHqeYUhk

Thank you!

** Due to the hateful, aggressive nature that discourse often takes on this subject,
comments have been disabled.*

** All images protected under the Fair Use Act.*

*Notes on video: * Gaza is surrounded by Israel, the sea, and EGYPT*

(1. Page-006 **Borders of Israel WIKI** https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borders_of_Israel)

** Family and food barely scratch the surface of what humans have in common, such as a
desire to be free and pain when those they love are killed.*

****UPDATE: Since the release of this video, Hamas leadership has stated that though
they were unaware of it, their militants DID kidnap the three Israeli teenagers (though
this does not explain away the roots of the conflict or Israel's disproportionate use of
violence against civilians unrelated to the incident).*

Here is a link: 2 <http://www.cnn.com/2014/08/22/world/m>

2. Page-024 **Hamas leader admits militants abducted slain Israeli teens**

<https://www.cnn.com/2014/08/22/world/meast/israel-teens-death-hamas/>

Sources: Ben Gurion:

3. Page-025 **David Ben-Gurion quotes**

<http://thinkexist.com/quotation/if-i-were-an-arab-leader-i-would-never-sign-an/347288.html>

Originally quoted by Nahum Goldmann, in *The Jewish Paradox: A Personal Memoir of
Historic Encounters that Shaped the Drama of Modern Jewry* (1978)

IDF Human Shields:

4. Page-025 'IDF Troops Used 11-year-old Boy as Human Shield in Gaza'

<https://www.haaretz.com/1.5093558>

5. Page-028 Mofaz: IDF to appeal 'human shield' ruling

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3154142,00.html>

6. Page-030 U.N. report accuses Israeli forces of using Palestinian children as human shields, abusing children in custody

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/un-report-accuses-israeli-forces-of-using-palestinian-children-as-human-shields-abusing-children-in-custody/>

UN shelters bombed:

7. Page-033 U.N. says Israel violated international law, after shells hit school in Gaza

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/israel-presses-attack-16-killed-at-un-school/2014/07/30/4a643588-17a5-11e4-85b6-c1451e622637_story.html

8. Page-037 Gaza: at least 15 killed and 90 injured as another UN school is hit

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/30/gaza-another-un-school-hit-in-further-night-of-fierce-bombardment>

Myth of human shields:

9. Page-042 Debunking Israel's 11 Main Myths about Gaza, Hamas and War Crimes

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/mehdi-hasan/gaza-israel_b_5624401.html

Israel encouraged Hamas:

10. Page-047 Hamas, Son of Israel

<http://original.antiwar.com/justin/2006/01/27/hamas-son-of-israel/>

11. Page-051 How Israel Helped to Spawn Hamas

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB123275572295011847>

12. Page-060 Olmert: PM strengthening Hamas to deceive Israelis

<http://www.jpost.com/Diplomacy-and-Politics/Olmert-PM-strengthening-Hamas-to-deceive-Israelis>

Hamas didn't kidnap:

13. Page-064 It Turns Out Hamas May Not Have Kidnapped and Killed the 3 Israeli Teens After All [Updated]

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2014/07/hamas-didnt-kidnap-the-israeli-teens-after-all.html>

Egypt destroyed tunnels, no casualties reported:

14. Page-068 Egypt destroys 1,370 Gaza smuggling tunnels

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/egypt-destroys-1370-gaza-smuggling-tunnels/>

Israel bombed power plant:

15. Page-070 Gaza's only power plant destroyed in Israel's most intense air strike yet

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/29/gaza-power-plant-destroyed-israeli-airstrike-100-palestinians-dead>

Segregation/Racism in Israel:

16. Page-074 Schools for Jews and Arabs: Separate but Definitely Not Equal

<https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/schools-for-jews-and-arabs-separate-but-definitely-not-equal-1.5186983>

17. Page-078 Racists Are Rampaging Through Israel

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/gq88dj/israeli-racism-gaza-kleinfeld-511

IDF tortured children:

18. Page-085 Palestinian children tortured, used as shields by Israel: U.N.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-palestinian-israel-children/palestinian-children-tortured-used-as-shields-by-israel-u-n-idUSBRE95J0FR20130620>

19. Page-088 Israel Is Holding Even More Palestinian Children in Solitary for Throwing Rocks

<https://news.vice.com/article/israel-is-holding-even-more-palestinian-children-in-solitary-for-throwing-rocks>

Zionist terrorists:

20. Page-092 How Zionist Extremism Became British Spies' Biggest Enemy

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/01/01/how-zionist-extremism-became-british-spies-biggest-enemy/>

21. Page-105 MI5 Files: Zionist Terrorist Plotted To Kill Winston Churchill

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/8425271/MI5-files-Zionist-terrorist-plotted-to-kill-Winston-Churchill.html>

22. Page-107 This Week in History: The King David Hotel Bombing

<http://www.jpost.com/Features/In-Thespotlight/This-Week-in-History-The-King-David-Hotel-bombing>

23. Page-109 Zionist Political Violence WIKI

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionist_political_violence

24. Page-120 A Massacre of Arabs Masked By a State Of National Amnesia

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/a-massacre-of-arabs-masked-by-a-state-of-national-amnesia-1970018.html>

25. Page-123 Lehi (Group)

http://www.princeton.edu/~achaney/tmve/wiki100k/docs/Lehi_%28group%29.html

British imperialized Palestine:

26. Page-124 British Imperialized Palestine

<http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/gl...>

<https://regentsprep.org/Regents/global/themes/imperialism/middleeast.cfm>

Land granted to Jews:

27. Page-125 Balfour Declaration 1917

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/balfour.asp

28. Page-125 Britain Must Atone For Its Sins in Palestine

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/palestinianauthority/9645925/Britain-must-atone-for-its-sins-in-Palestine.html>

Comments are disabled for this video.

^ 1. Borders of Israel WIKI https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borders_of_Israel

This article is about the modern-day borders of Israel. For the ancient borders of Israel, see [Mosaic of Rehob](#).

Borders of Israel

The current **borders of the State of Israel** are the result both of war and of diplomatic agreements among [Israel](#), her neighbors, and colonial powers. Some borders are internationally recognized while others are disputed.

According to interpretations[[by whom?](#)] of the [Green Line](#) of the [1949 Armistice Agreements](#), Israel borders [Lebanon](#) in the north, the [Golan Heights](#) and [Syria](#) in the northeast, the [West Bank](#) and [Jordan](#) in the east, the [Gaza Strip](#) and [Egypt](#) in the southwest. The border with Egypt is the [international border](#) demarcated in 1906 between [United Kingdom](#) and the [Ottoman Empire](#).

The borders with Lebanon, Syria and Jordan are based on those drawn by the United Kingdom and [France](#) in anticipation of the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in the [First World War](#) and the subsequent [partition of the Ottoman Empire's Middle East provinces](#) between them. Finalized in subsequent agreements, these borders are referred to as the 1923 [Paulet-Newcombe Agreement](#) borders and were those of the [British Mandate of Palestine](#).



Israel's borders with Egypt and Jordan have now been formally recognized and confirmed as part of the peace treaties with those countries, and with Lebanon as part of the 1949 Armistice Agreements. As of 2002, the borders with Syria and [Palestinian National Authority](#) were still in dispute.[\[1\]](#)

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1. The British Mandate

1.1 The Sykes–Picot Line

The [Sykes–Picot Agreement](#) of 1916 secretly divided the Ottoman Empire lands of Middle East between British and French [spheres of influence](#). They agreed that "Palestine" was to be designated as an "international enclave".[\[2\]](#)

This agreement was revised by Britain and France in 1919. It was agreed that Palestine and the [Vilayet of Mosul](#) in modern-day [Iraq](#) would be part of the British sphere in exchange for British support of French influence in Syria and Lebanon.[\[3\]](#) According to historian Ilan Pappé,

"The borders of mandatory Palestine, first drawn up in the Sykes-Picot Agreement, were given their definitive shape during lengthy and tedious negotiations by British and French officials between 1919 and 1922 ... In October 1919 the British envisaged the area that is today southern Lebanon and most of southern Syria as being



Zones of French and British influence and control proposed in the Sykes–Picot Agreement

part of British mandatory Palestine ... In the East, matters were more complicated...[Transjordan] was part of the Ottoman province of Damascus which in the Sykes-Picot agreement had been allocated to the French."[\[4\]](#)

At the [San Remo Conference](#) (19–26 April 1920) the Allied Supreme Council granted the mandates for Palestine and Mesopotamia to Britain without precisely defining the boundaries of the mandated territories.[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#) Although part of the land east of the Jordan had been part of the Syrian administrative unit under the Ottomans, it was excluded from the French Mandate at the San Remo conference, "on the grounds that it was part of Palestine."[\[7\]](#) That said, the 1920 agreement contained Article 25, which created provision for the possible later exclusion of land east of the Jordan from the Balfour Declaration.

1.2 Paulet-Newcombe Agreement

The [Paulet-Newcombe Agreement](#), a series of agreements between 1920–23, contained the principles for the boundary between the [Mandates](#) of [Palestine](#) and [Mesopotamia](#), attributed to Great Britain, and the Mandate of [Syria](#) and the [Lebanon](#), attributed to France.

The boundary between the forthcoming British and French mandates was defined in broad terms.[\[8\]](#) That agreement placed the bulk of the Golan Heights in the French sphere. The treaty also established a joint commission to settle the border and mark it on the ground.[\[8\]](#) The commission submitted its final report on 3 February 1922, and it was approved with some caveats by the British and French governments on 7 March 1923,[\[9\]](#) several months before Britain and France assumed their Mandatory responsibilities on 29 September 1923.[\[10\]](#) In accordance with the same process, a nearby parcel of land that included the ancient site of [Dan](#) was transferred from Syria to Palestine early in 1924. In this way the Golan Heights became part of the [French Mandate of Syria](#). When the French Mandate of Syria ended in 1944, the Golan Heights remained part of the newly independent state of Syria.

1.3 Transjordan

In March 1921, the Colonial Secretary [Winston Churchill](#) visited Jerusalem and following a discussion with [Emir Abdullah](#), it was agreed that the [Jewish National Home](#) objective for the proposed Palestinian Mandate territory would not apply to the Mandate territory east of the [Jordan River](#). In accordance with that agreement, the [Churchill White Paper](#) of June 3, 1922, stated explicitly that "the terms of the [Balfour]

[Declaration](#) referred to do not contemplate that Palestine as a whole should be converted into a Jewish National Home, but that such a Home should be founded 'in Palestine'."

In June 1922, the [League of Nations](#) approved the [Palestine Mandate](#), to come into effect automatically when a dispute between France and Italy over the Syria Mandate was settled. The Mandate also stated that Britain could 'postpone or withhold' application of the provisions dealing with the 'Jewish National Home' in the territory east of the [Jordan River](#), then called [Transjordan](#). In September 1922, the British government [presented a memorandum](#) to the League of Nations stating that Transjordan would be excluded from all the provisions dealing with Jewish settlement, and this memorandum was approved on 23 September. The French/Italian dispute was resolved on September 29, 1923, and both Mandates came into force on that date.

Britain administered the part west of the Jordan as Palestine, and the part east of the Jordan as Transjordan, with the border being the Jordan River. Palestine comprised 23% of the Mandate territory and Transjordan comprised 77%. Technically they were one mandate but most official documents referred to them as two separate mandates. Transjordan remained under British control until 1946, when it gained independence.[\[11\]](#)

1.4 End of British Mandate



David Ben-Gurion proclaiming independence beneath a large portrait of [Theodor Herzl](#), founder of modern [Zionism](#)

On 29 November 1947, the [General Assembly of the United Nations](#) adopted a resolution recommending the adoption and implementation of a [plan to partition Palestine](#) into "Independent Arab and Jewish States" and a "Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem" administered by the United Nations (Resolution 181 (II)).[\[12\]](#) Britain declared that the Mandate was to end on 15 May 1948. On 14 May 1948, [David Ben-Gurion](#), in a ceremony in [Tel-Aviv](#), declared the establishment of a Jewish state in [Eretz-Israel](#), to be known as the State of Israel.[\[13\]](#)

Eliahu Epstein, Agent, Provisional Government of Israel said in a letter to President Truman seeking recognition from the U.S government, sent immediately after the Declaration of 14 May 1948, that the state of Israel has been proclaimed as an independent republic within frontiers approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations in its Resolution of November 29, 1947. [\[14\]](#)

2. Border with Lebanon

The Blue Line covers the Lebanese–Israeli border; an extension covers the Lebanese–Golan Heights boundary.

The United Nations in June 2000 was called upon to decide the [Lebanese](#) border to determine whether Israel had fully withdrawn from Lebanon in compliance with [UN Security Council Resolution 425](#). This line came to be called the [Blue Line](#). At the same time, the United Nations did not have to consider the legality of the boundary between Lebanon and the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, as that was not required for the purpose of Council Resolution 425. Accordingly, the Armistice Demarcation Line between Lebanon and the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights is expressly not to be called the Blue Line.



The Blue Line, which the UN had to determine was the line of deployment of the [IDF](#) before March 14, 1978, when Israel invaded Lebanon. In effect that line was recognised by both Lebanon and by Israel as the international border, and not just as the Armistice Demarcation Line of 1949[\[citation needed\]](#) (what is commonly called the Green Line) following the [1948 Arab–Israeli War](#).

2.1 Background

On March 14, 1978, Israel launched [Operation Litani](#), occupying the area south of the [Litani River](#), excepting [Tyre](#) (see map). In response to the invasion, the UN Security Council passed [Council Resolution 425](#) and Resolution 426 calling for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon. Israeli forces withdrew later in 1978, but turned over their positions inside Lebanon to their ally, the [South Lebanon Army](#) (SLA).

On April 17, 2000, Israel announced that it would withdraw its forces from Lebanon. The Lebanese government refused to take part in marking the border. The UN thus conducted its own survey based on the line for the purpose of Council Resolution 425, which called for "strict respect for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and political independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries".

From May 24 to June 7, 2000, the [UN Special Envoy](#) heard views in Israel, Lebanon and Syria. The United Nations cartographer and his team, assisted by UNIFIL, worked on the ground to identify a line to be adopted for the practical purposes of confirming the Israeli withdrawal. While it was agreed that this would not be a formal border demarcation, the aim was to identify a line on the ground closely conforming to the internationally recognized boundaries of Lebanon, based on the best available cartographic and other documentary evidence. On May 25, 2000, Israel notified the [Secretary-General](#) that it had redeployed its forces in compliance with Council Resolution 425, that is to the internationally recognized Lebanese border. On June 7, the completed map showing the withdrawal line was formally transmitted by the force commander of UNIFIL to his Lebanese and Israeli counterparts. Notwithstanding their reservations about the line, the governments of Israel and Lebanon confirmed that identifying this line was solely the responsibility of the United Nations and that they would respect the line as identified.

On June 8, UNIFIL teams commenced the work of verifying the Israeli withdrawal behind the line.

2.2 The Blue Line

The [Blue Line](#) identified by the United Nations in 2000 as the border of Lebanon, from the [Mediterranean Sea](#) to the [Hasbani River](#), closely approximates the [Green Line](#) set under the [1949 armistice agreement](#) between Lebanon and Israel. [\[15\]](#) The area east of the Hasbani River, is considered part of Syria and included in the Golan Heights.

The armistice agreement between Lebanon and Israel was signed on March 23, 1949. The main points were:

- The terms of the agreement were *dictated exclusively by military considerations*
- The armistice line (i.e. "Green Line") was the international border, which corresponds to the 1923 Mandate border between the Lebanon and [Palestine](#) (see: [Treaty of Sèvres](#)).

- Unlike the other Green Line agreements, it contains no clause disclaiming this line as an international border, and was thereafter treated as it had been previously, as the [de jure](#) international border of Lebanon.
- Israel withdrew its forces from 13 villages in Lebanese territory, which were occupied during the war.

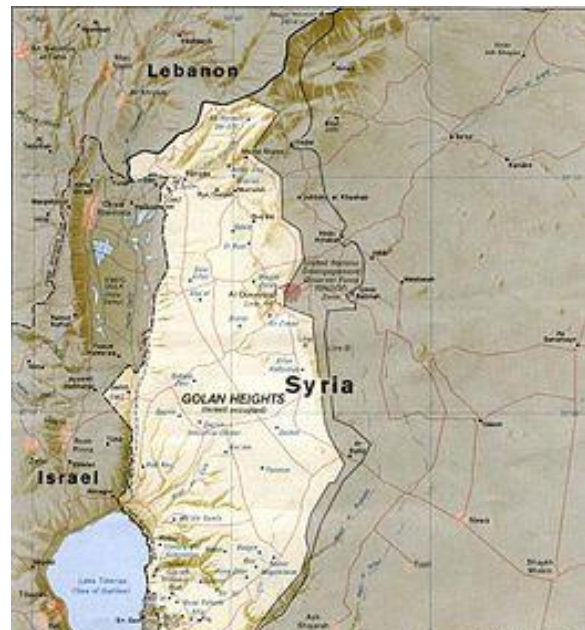
In 1923, 38 boundary markers were placed along the 49-mile (78 km) boundary and a detailed text description was published.^[2] The 2000 Blue Line differs in about a half dozen short stretches from the 1949 line, though never by more than 475 meters.
[citation needed]

Between 1950 and 1967, Israeli and Lebanese surveyors managed to complete 25 non-contiguous kilometers and mark (but not sign) another quarter of the international border.

On June 16, the [Secretary-General](#) reported to the [Security Council](#) that Israel had withdrawn its forces from Lebanon in accordance with Council Resolution 425 and met the requirements defined in his report of May 22, 2000.^[16] The withdrawal line has been termed the Blue Line in all official UN communications since.

3. Border with Syria

In 1923, an agreement between the United Kingdom and France established the border between the [British Mandate of Palestine](#) and the [French Mandate of Syria](#).^[9] The British handed over the southern Golan Heights to the French in return for the northern [Jordan Valley](#). The border was re-drawn so that both sides of the [Jordan River](#) and the whole of the [Sea of Galilee](#), including a 10-metre-wide strip along the northeastern shore, were made a part of Palestine.^{[17][18]} The [1947 UN Partition Plan](#) put this territory area inside the Jewish state.



Sites on the Golan in blue are Israeli settlements. Sites on the Golan in black are Syrian villages. Areas of the Golan occupied by Israel are light-coloured while those under Syrian control are grey.

During the Six-Day War, Israel captured the territory, and subsequently repelled a Syrian attempt to recapture it during the [Yom Kippur War](#). Israel annexed the Golan Heights in 1981 with the [Golan Heights Law](#).^[19] Israel began building [settlements](#) throughout the Golan Heights, and offered the Druze and Circassian residents citizenship, which most turned down. Today, Israel regards the Golan Heights as its sovereign territory, and a strategic necessity. ^[citation needed] The [Purple Line](#) marks the boundary between Israel and Syria. Israel's unilateral annexation has not been internationally recognized, and [United Nations Security Council Resolution 242](#) refers to the area as [Israeli-occupied](#).

During the 1990s, there were constant negotiations between Israel and Syria regarding a mediation of conflicts and an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights but a peace treaty did not come to fruition.^[20] The main stumbling block seems to involve 66 square kilometers of territory in the Jordan Valley that lies west of the 1923 Palestinian Mandate border, but which had been seized by Syria in the [1948 Arab-Israeli War](#) and retained by it under the 1949 armistice agreement with Israel.^[21] [Arab](#) countries support Syria's position in the formula which calls on Israel "to return to the 1967 borders". (See 2002 [Arab Peace Initiative](#))

3.1 Conflict over the Shebaa Farms

Both Lebanon and Syria were within the French Mandate Territory between 1920 and the end of the French Mandate in 1946. The dispute over the sovereignty over the [Shebaa Farms](#) resulted in part from the failure of French [Mandate](#) administrations, and subsequently from the failure of the Lebanon and Syria to properly demarcate the border between them.



Borders between Israel, Syria and Lebanon in Mount Hermon region. The (+++) Line between Israel and Lebanon – marked by black asterisk. Disengagement Israeli front line with Syria (1974) – marked by blue asterisk. Disengagement Syrian front line with Isr Israel (1974) – marked by red asterisk.

Documents from the 1920s and 1930s indicate that some local inhabitants regarded themselves as part of Lebanon, for example paying taxes to the Lebanese government. But French officials at times expressed confusion as to the actual location of the border.[\[22\]](#) One French official in 1939 expressed the belief that the uncertainty was sure to cause trouble in the future.

The region continued to be represented in the 1930s and 1940s as Syrian territory, under the French Mandate. Detailed maps showing the border were produced by the French in 1933, and again in 1945.[\[23\]](#) They clearly showed the region to be in Syria.

After the French Mandate ended in 1946, the land was administered by Syria, and represented as such in all maps of the time.[\[24\]](#) The maps of the 1949 armistice agreement between Syria and Israel also designated the area as Syrian.

Border disputes arose at times, however. Shebaa Farms was not unique; several other border villages had similar discrepancies of borders versus land ownership. Syria and Lebanon formed a joint Syrian–Lebanese border committee in the late 1950s to determine a proper border between the two nations. In 1964, concluding its work, the committee suggested to the two governments that the area be deemed the property of Lebanon, and recommended that the international border be re-established consistent with its suggestion. However, neither Syria nor Lebanon adopted the committee's suggestion, and neither country took any action along the suggested lines. Thus, maps of the area continued to reflect the Farms as being in Syria.[\[24\]](#) Even maps of both the Syrian and Lebanese armies continued to demarcate the region within Syrian territory (see map).[\[24\]](#)

A number of local residents regarded themselves as Lebanese, however. The Lebanese government showed little interest in their views. The Syrian government administered the region, and on the eve of the 1967 war, the region was under effective Syrian control. [\[citation needed\]](#)

In 1967, most Shebaa Farms landowners and (Lebanese) farmers lived outside the Syrian-controlled region, across the Lebanon-Syrian border, in the Lebanese village of Shebaa. During the Six Day War in 1967, Israel captured the Golan Heights from Syria, including the Shebaa Farms area. As a consequence, the Lebanese landowners were no longer able to farm it.[\[25\]](#)

4. Border with Jordan

In 1988, Palestine [declared its independence](#) without specifying its borders. Jordan [extended recognition](#) to Palestine and ceded its claim to the [West Bank](#) to the Palestinian Liberation Organisation, which had been previously designated by the Arab League as the "sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people".[\[26\]](#)



A handshake between King Hussein and PM Rabin, accompanied by President Clinton, during the Israel-Jordan peace negotiations, July 25th, 1994

The [Israel-Jordan Treaty of Peace](#) was signed on October 26, 1994. The treaty resolved territorial and border issues that were ongoing since the 1948 war. The treaty specified and fully recognized the international border between Israel and Jordan.

Upon its signing, the [Jordan](#) and [Yarmouk Rivers](#), the [Dead Sea](#), the [Emek Ha'arva/Wadi Araba](#) and the [Gulf of Aqaba](#) were officially designated as the borders between Israel and Jordan and between Jordan and the territory occupied by Israel in 1967.[\[27\]](#) For the latter, the agreement requires that the demarcation use a different presentation, and that it carry the following disclaimer:

"This line is the administrative boundary between Jordan and the territory which came under Israeli military government control in 1967. Any treatment of this line shall be without prejudice to the status of the territory."[\[28\]](#)

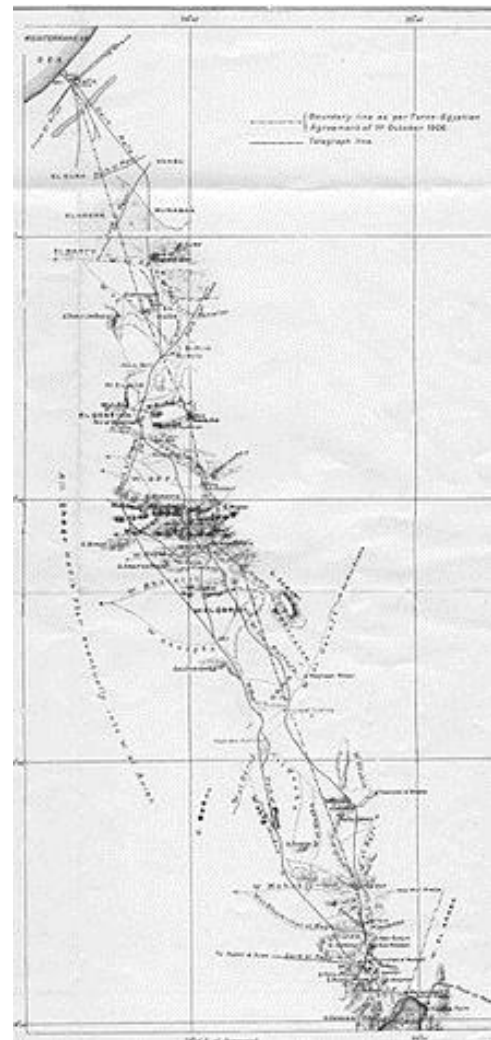
In 2011, Palestine submitted an application for membership to the United Nations, using the borders for military administration that existed before 1967.[\[29\]](#) As Israel does not recognize the [State of Palestine](#), Jordan's borders with Israel remain unclear.

5. Border with Egypt

RIGHT: Egypt Ottoman border 1906, as depicted in the 1907 Survey of Egypt

The international border between the [Ottoman Empire](#) and British controlled Egypt was drawn in the Ottoman–British agreement of 1 October 1906.[\[30\]](#)

According to the personal documents of the British colonel Wilfred A. Jennings Bramley, who influenced the negotiations, the border mainly served British military interests—it furthered the Ottomans as much as possible from the [Suez Canal](#), and gave Britain complete control over both [Red Sea](#) gulfs—Suez and Aqaba, including the [Straits of Tiran](#). At the time, the [Aqaba](#) branch of the [Hejaz railway](#) had not been built, and the Ottomans therefore had no simple access to the Red Sea. The British were also interested in making the border as short and patrollable as possible, and did not take into account the needs of the local residents in the negotiations.[\[31\]](#)



The 1949 armistice agreement between Israel and Egypt was ratified on February 24, 1949. The armistice line between these countries followed the international border except along the Gaza Strip, which remained under Egyptian occupation.[\[32\]](#)

RIGHT: A clearly visible line marks about 80 kilometers (~50 mi) of the international border between Egypt and Israel in this photograph from the [International Space Station](#). The reason for the color difference is likely a higher level of grazing by the Bedouin-tended animal herds on the Egyptian side of the border.



The [Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty](#), signed on March 26, 1979, created an officially recognized international border along the 1906 line, with Egypt renouncing all claims to the Gaza Strip. A dispute arose over the marking of the border line at its southernmost point, in [Taba](#). Taba was on the Egyptian side of the armistice line of 1949, but Israel claimed that Taba had been on the Ottoman side of a border agreed between the Ottomans and British Egypt in 1906, and that there had previously been an error in marking the line. The issue was submitted to an international commission composed of one Israeli, one Egyptian, and three outsiders. In 1988, the commission ruled in Egypt's favor, and Israel withdrew from Taba later that year.

6. Borders with Palestine

On 29 November 1947, the [UN General Assembly](#) adopted a resolution recommending to the United Kingdom, as the mandatory Power for Palestine, and to all other Members of the United Nations the adoption and implementation, with regard to the future government of Palestine, of the Plan of Partition with Economic Union as [Resolution 181 \(II\)](#).^[33] The Plan contained a proposal to terminate the [British Mandate for Palestine](#) and partition Palestine into Independent Arab and Jewish States and the Special International Regime for the City of Jerusalem. The Jewish community of Mandate Palestine accepted the plan, despite its misgivings. With a few exceptions, the Arab leaders and governments rejected the plan of partition in the resolution and indicated that they would reject any other plan of partition. On 14 May 1948, the day before the expiration of the Mandate for Palestine, [David Ben-Gurion](#), on behalf of the Jewish community, declared the [establishment of a Jewish state](#) in [Eretz-Israel](#), to be known as the [State of Israel](#).^[34]

On the next day, the Arab armies marched their forces into what had been the British Mandate for Palestine. This intervention/invasion from all sides turned the [1947–1948 Civil War in Mandatory Palestine](#) into the [1948 Arab–Israeli War](#). The tide of battle soon turned against the Arabs, and Israel then launched a series of military offensives, greatly expanding its territorial holdings. On September 22, 1948, during a truce in the war, the [Provisional State Council](#) of Israel passed a law annexing all land that Israel had captured in that war, and declaring that from then on, any part of Palestine taken by the Israeli army would automatically be annexed to Israel.^[35] The end of the war saw the [Lausanne Conference of 1949](#). Following internationally supervised Arab-Israeli negotiations, a boundary based on the cease-fire lines of the war with minor territorial adjustments, commonly referred to as the [Green Line](#), was agreed upon in the [1949 Armistice Agreements](#). The Green Line was expressly declared in the Armistice Agreements as a temporary [demarcation line](#), rather than a permanent border, and the Armistice Agreements relegated the issue of permanent borders to future negotiations. The area to the west of the Jordan River came to be called the West Bank, and was annexed by Jordan in 1950;^[36] and the Gaza Strip was controlled by Egypt. During the [Six-Day War](#) of 1967, Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan, Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and Golan Heights from Syria, and placed these territories under [military occupation](#).



*Israel's 1949 Green Line
(green thin line) and
demilitarized zones
(green thick line/areas)*

Israel and the Palestinian territories now lay entirely within the boundaries of former British Mandate Palestine. By the [Israel-Egypt Peace Treaty](#) of 1979, Egypt renounced all claims to the Gaza Strip. In 1988, Jordan renounced all claims to the West Bank;^[37] this was made official in the [Israel–Jordan Treaty of Peace](#) of 1994.

The Green Line is Israel's contested boundary with the Palestinian territories. Shortly after the [Six-Day War](#) of 1967, Israel extended the Jerusalem Municipality's [city limits](#) and applied its laws, jurisdiction, and administration to East Jerusalem and the surrounding area. In 1980, the [Knesset](#) passed the [Jerusalem Law](#), declaring Jerusalem to be the "complete and united" capital of Israel. The Israeli government offered the

Palestinian residents citizenship, most of whom refused, and are treated today as [permanent residents](#) under Israeli law. According to the Israeli rights organisation Hamoked, if these Palestinians live abroad for seven years, or gain citizenship or residency elsewhere, they lose their Israeli residency.[\[38\]\[39\]](#)

The purported annexation of East Jerusalem was condemned by the United Nations Security Council as "a violation of international law" and declared "null and void" in [United Nations Security Council Resolution 478](#) and has not been recognized by the international community; no country has its embassy in Jerusalem. Instead, the embassies are located in Tel Aviv, whilst Jerusalem remains home to many consulates.[\[40\]\[41\]](#)

The boundaries of a future Palestinian State, vis-a-vis Israel, are subject to ongoing negotiations in the [Israel–Palestinian peace process](#). Israel's [West Bank Wall](#), which encompasses almost all [Israeli settlements](#), including all three major cities, and only a minor Palestinian population, was declared by Prime Minister [Ehud Olmert](#) as running roughly along the future borders of Israel[\[citation needed\]](#). Israeli Foreign Minister [Avigdor Lieberman](#) proposed that the Arab-Israeli border region known as the [Triangle](#) be removed from Israeli sovereignty and transferred to the Palestinian Authority, in exchange for the border settlement blocs. The [Palestinian Authority](#) claims all of these territories (including East Jerusalem) for a future [Palestinian State](#), and its position is supported by the Arab League in the 2002 [Arab Peace Initiative](#) which calls for the return by Israel to "the 1967 borders". While Israel has expressed desire to annex the border settlement blocs and keep East Jerusalem, its border with Gaza has largely been solidified, especially following [Israel's withdrawal](#) in 2005. Israel has not made claims to any portion Gazan territory and offered the entire area to Palestinians as part of the [2000 Camp David Summit](#).

At the same time, Israel has continued to claim a nominal strip on the border between the West Bank and Jordan, and between Gaza and Egypt as its border with those countries. This is viewed as a legalistic device to enable Israel to control the entry of people and materials into the Palestinian territories.[\[citation needed\]](#)

7. Status of Jerusalem

The [status and boundary of Jerusalem](#) continue to be in dispute.

Israel took control of [West Jerusalem](#) during the [1948 Arab–Israeli War](#), while [Jordan](#) took control of [East Jerusalem](#) (including the walled [Old City](#) in which most holy places are located). During the [Six-Day War](#) of 1967, Israel gained control of East Jerusalem, and shortly after extended Jerusalem's municipality [city limits](#) and applied its laws, jurisdiction, and administration to East Jerusalem and the surrounding area. In 1980, the [Knesset](#) passed the [Jerusalem Law](#), declaring Jerusalem to be the "complete and united" capital of Israel.

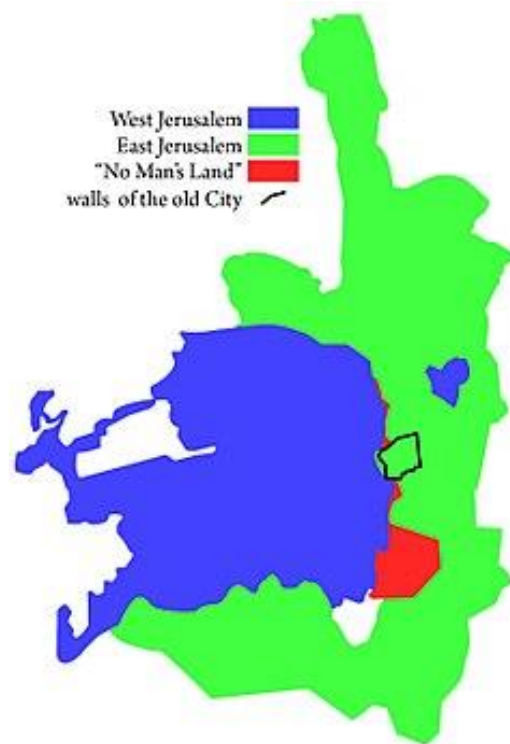
On December 6, 2017, [US President Donald Trump](#) announced the [United States recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel](#).^[42]

Secretary of State [Rex Tillerson](#) clarified "that the final status [for Jerusalem], including the borders, would be left to the two parties to negotiate and decide."^[43]

8. See also: [2011 Israeli border demonstrations](#) [Baraita of the Boundaries](#)

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4. Pappe, pp. 4–5.
5. Biger, 2005, p. 173.



Jerusalem municipal area

6. [Chaim Weizmann](#), subsequently reported to his colleagues in London: "There are still important details outstanding, such as the actual terms of the mandate and the question of the boundaries in Palestine. There is the [boundary delimitation](#) of the boundary between French Syria and Palestine, which will constitute the northern frontier and the eastern line of demarcation, adjoining Arab Syria. The latter is not likely to be fixed until the Emir Feisal attends the Peace Conference, probably in Paris." See: '*Zionist Aspirations: Dr. Weizmann on the Future of Palestine*', *The Times*, Saturday, 8 May 1920; p. 15.
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^ 2. Hamas leader admits militants abducted slain Israeli teens

By **RAY SANCHEZ**, CNN Updated 8:01 PM ET, Fri August 22, 2014 Source: [CNN](#)

<https://www.cnn.com/2014/08/22/world/meast/israel-teens-death-hamas/>

^ VIDEO 03:35 *Did Hamas kill Israeli teens?*

Three Israeli teens kidnapped in the West Bank in June and later found dead were abducted by Hamas militants who did not inform the group leadership about the kidnapping, a Hamas official said Friday.



"At that time, the Hamas leadership had no knowledge about this group or the operation it had just carried," Saleh Aruri, a Hamas Political Bureau member, said in a statement from Doha, Qatar. "It turned out later, however, that they were members of Hamas."

^ VIDEO *Hamas executes 18 suspected informants* 04:29

^ VIDEO *Hamas vows revenge over rocket strikes* 02:15

This page was last edited on 23 May 2018, at 12:36

Aruri said the operation to abduct the teens was not approved by the Hamas leadership or its military wing, the Qassam Brigades.

Tensions between Israel and Hamas ratcheted up June 30 after the bodies of three Israeli teenagers were found in the West Bank.

Israel blamed the disappearances and deaths on Hamas. "Hamas will pay," said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The three bodies were found northwest of Hebron, according to the Israeli military.

The teens -- Eyal Yifrach, 19; Gilad Shaar, 16; and Naftali Frankel, a 16-year-old dual U.S.-Israeli citizen -- disappeared late June 12 or early June 13 from the Jewish settlement of Gush Etzion in the West Bank, the military said.

[Report: Hamas kills 18 suspected informants for Israel](#)

[Who's who in Hamas](#)

^ 3. David Ben-Gurion quotes

<http://thinkexist.com/quotation/if-i-were-an-arab-leader-i-would-never-sign-an/347288.html>

"If I were an Arab leader, I would never sign an agreement with Israel. It is normal; we have taken their country. It is true God promised it to us, but how could that interest them? Our God is not theirs. There has been Anti - Semitism, the Nazis, Hitler, Auschwitz, but was that their fault? They see but one thing: we have come and we have stolen their country. Why would they accept that?"

~ [David Ben-Gurion quotes](#) ([Polish](#) born [Israeli Statesman](#) and [Prime Minister](#) (1948-53, 1955-63). Chief architect of the state of Israel and revered as Father of the Nation, [1886-1973](#)) [Similar Quotes](#). 🇮🇱 [nam123](#)

See also:

[Quotes about: Agreement, Israel.](#)

[Quotes with: agreement, Arab, Israel, leader, normal, sign, taken.](#)

^ 4. 'IDF Troops Used 11-year-old Boy as Human Shield in Gaza'

<https://www.haaretz.com/1.5093558>

UN report accuses IDF of committing human rights atrocities during Operation Cast Lead.

By [NATASHA MOZGOVAYA](#) and [News Agencies](#) 23.03.2009 16:49 Updated: 11:23 PM [0 comments](#)

Israel Defense Forces soldiers used an 11-year-old Palestinian boy as a human shield during the war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, a group of UN human rights experts said Monday.

IDF troops ordered the boy to walk in front of soldiers being fired on in the Gaza neighborhood of Tel al-Hawa and enter buildings before them, said the UN secretary-general's envoy for protecting children in armed conflict.

RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY SAID THE INCIDENT on Jan. 15, after Israeli tanks had rolled into the neighborhood, was a violation of Israeli and international law.

It was included in a 43-page report published Monday, and was just one of many verified human rights atrocities during the three-week war between Israel and Hamas that ended Jan. 18, she said.

Coomaraswamy accused Israeli soldiers of shooting Palestinian children, bulldozing a home with a woman and child still inside, and shelling a building they had ordered civilians into a day earlier.

Israel's diplomatic mission in Geneva said it would respond to the allegations later Monday at a session of the UN Human Rights Council.

There also have been allegations that the militant group Hamas used human shields, but UN human rights experts have yet to verify those, said Coomaraswamy.

"Violations were reported on a daily basis, too numerous to list," said Coomaraswamy.

COOMARASWAMY, WHO VISITED GAZA AND ISRAEL FOR FIVE DAYS in February, said her list constituted "just a few examples of the hundreds of incidents that have been documented and verified" by UN officials who were in the territory.

She was the only one of the nine UN experts who compiled the report that was allowed into Gaza following the war. The experts covered issues ranging from health and hunger to women's rights and arbitrary executions.

The experts also noted reports that Hamas had committed other abuses. They said Hamas had been unwilling to investigate the allegations.

The report called for Israel to end its blockade of the impoverished territory, where they said more than 90 percent of people are dependent on food aid; allow Palestinians to move between Gaza and the West Bank; and investigate human rights abuses that occurred during the conflict.

Coomaraswamy has been a UN undersecretary-general since April 2006. She formerly headed the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission and reported as a UN special investigator on violence against women.

COOMARASWAMY'S COMMENTS FORMED part of a much longer report from nine UN investigators including specialists on the right to health, to food, to adequate housing and education and on summary executions and violence against women.

All cited violations by Israel - and in some cases by the Hamas Islamic movement that controls Gaza - during the invasion from December 27 until January 17 which Israeli leaders say was launched to stop rocket attacks by Hamas from the territory.

Palestinian officials say 1,434 people in Gaza - 960 of them civilians - were killed in the fighting, a figure Israel contests. The report from the nine gave the total as 1,440, saying of these 431 were children and 114 women.

The overall report was criticized in the 47-nation Council by Israel's ambassador Aharon Leshno Yar, who said it "wilfully ignores and downplays the terrorist and other threats we face," and the use by Hamas of human shields.

Leshno Yar said the 43-page document was part of a pattern of "demonizing Israel" in the Council - where an informal bloc of Islamic and African nations usually backed by Russia, China and Cuba has a built-in majority.

ANOTHER REPORT PRESENTED TO THE COUNCIL on Monday came from Robert Falk, a U.S. academic and the body's special rapporteur on human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Falk, whom Israel barred from entry last year after accusing him of bias and prejudice, said Israel had subjected civilians in Gaza to "an inhuman form of warfare that kills, maims and inflicts mental harm."

His report, in which he called for an independent experts group to probe possible war crimes by Israel and Hamas and also suggested that the UN Security Council set up an ad hoc criminal tribunal, was issued late last week.

State Department spokesman Robert Wood was asked whether the U.S. supports Falk's call for an independent inquiry into possible war crimes in Gaza by both Israel and Hamas.

"We've expressed our concern many times about the special rapporteur's views on dealing with that question, and we've found the rapporteur's views to be anything but fair. We find them to be biased. We've made that very clear," said Wood.

^ 5. Mofaz: IDF to appeal 'human shield' ruling

<https://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3154142,00.html>

High Court rules that 'human shield' and 'early warning' procedures used by IDF to apprehend terrorists are illegal; Mofaz intends to use democratic means to review the issue

By: **HANAN GREENBERG** | Published: 10.11.05, 21:39



Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz

Photo: GIL YOHANAN

Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz on Tuesday demanded that the High Court review a ruling it issued last Thursday in which it declared that the 'human shield' procedure employed by the IDF when detaining Palestinian terror suspects is illegal and violates international law.

Sources at the Ministry of Defense said that Mofaz' comments are not an attempt to subvert the Court's decision, adding that the defense minister intends to use democratic means to revoke the ruling.

According to defense officials, the Israel Defense Forces made use of the 'human shield' procedure on 1,200 occasions over the last five years, and only on one occasion did a Palestinian civilian get hurt.

An 18-year-old Palestinian was killed in 2002 during one such operation.

Mofaz instructed the IDF to freeze the use of the 'human shield' and 'early warning' procedures in its arrest operations in the territories until the Court holds a new hearing on the issue.

Chief Military Prosecutor Avichai Mandelblit held talks on Tuesday with Central Command officers who told him that in overnight raids during which 20 Palestinian fugitives were arrested, IDF soldiers made no use of the 'human shield' or the 'early warning' procedures, in compliance with instructions issued by the IDF Chief of Staff Dan Halutz.

A senior official in the military prosecution told Ynet that the defense minister instructed the IDF to shelve the procedure in accordance with the High Court's ruling and forbade its usage even in exceptional circumstances.

"The ruling necessitates new operational procedures, such as public announcements, yet the IDF is subordinate to the political and legal echelon; following the High Court's ruling it was decided to freeze this procedure and that's what has been done," the official said.

Chief of Staff: Obey High Court

IDF Chief of Staff Dan Halutz was swift to instruct IDF commanders to immediately enforce the High Court's ruling which forbids the use of Palestinian civilians to assist security operations in the Palestinian territories.

"The IDF now expects soldiers, and anyone else, who know of a breach of the rules, to report them to commanders," wrote Major General Halutz. "Every incident will be investigated and treated severely," he added.

Halutz's orders were given out despite the IDF's claim that the army has already ceased using Palestinian civilians to aid them for a long period. Despite this, the Chief of Staff sent out new instructions in light of the High Court's ruling.

Halutz's new guidelines are primarily aimed at the 'early warning' practice' which has developed in the army recently, after a ban on the use of the human shield' procedure.

Under the 'early warning procedure,' residents who reside close the home of a wanted Palestinian can "volunteer for missions" under the request of soldiers. The High Court condemned this type of practice, and the Chief of Staff has said that soldiers could not use such tactics in the future. *First published: 10.11.05, 21:39*

6 Talkbacks for this article

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1. The High-Court is accomplice of Palestinian terror! (11.10.05) *Disband the high-court gang*

2. High Court of Justice is Right Hand of G-d! (n/t) (11.10.05)

3. High Court--Micha Sloman, Sydney, Australia (12.10.05)

As an Israeli I am proud of our High Court. It endeavors to be just, ethical and impartial. Maybe it sometimes make a ruling that conflicts with the political views of some people. However, all its Judges are all highly learned and moral persons.

4. Replace the Palestinian judges on the Israeli? high court?

--Bunnie Meyer, Santa Monica, CA (12.10.05)

with Jews, perhaps even Israeli Jews. This ruling is cattle dung trying to pass itself off as kosher beef. It is more greatly moral to use Palestinians to ask their neighbors to surrender than it is to destroy the whole building without an attempt at getting the terrorist to surrender. The? high court? needs to go back to Ethics Class 101.

5. To Australian--Gil, Tel Aviv (12.10.05)

yeah you#re not Israeli... you're Australian!! Or is that Austrian??

6. Bunnie! shame on u! hi court=right hand of G-d (n/t) (13.10.05)

[See all talkbacks "Mofaz: IDF to appeal 'human shield' ruling"](#)

^ 6. U.N. report accuses Israeli forces of using Palestinian children as human shields, abusing children in custody

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/un-report-accuses-israeli-forces-of-using-palestinian-children-as-human-shields-abusing-children-in-custody/>

By **ALEXANDER TROWBRIDGE** CBS News June 21, 2013, 1:02 PM



A Palestinian youth throws a rock at Israeli soldiers during clashes in the West Bank town of Nablus, on November 18, 2012, as Palestinian across the territories protest against Israel's military action on the Gaza Strip.

JAAFAR ASHTIYEH/AFP/Getty Images

A UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE focused on youth rights accused Israel Thursday of failing to stop the mistreatment of Palestinian children in military and police custody.

The group's [report](#) accuses Israeli forces of using Palestinian children as human shields, and alleges that detained children in some cases face torture, solitary confinement and threats of sexual assault.

Assembled by the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child, the 21-page document comes three months after a [UNICEF paper](#) criticized the "systematic and institutionalized" mistreatment of Palestinian children detained by the Israeli military.



[^ Video *Palestinians celebrate statehood recognition*](#)

[^ Palestinians celebrate UN victory - YouTube](#)

And YT: 1:46 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2i_hHbxGW0k

The Israeli Embassy dismissed the latest U.N. report as politically motivated old news.

"This is a report that is based on the recycling of old accusations, based on political biases - and not based on direct investigation on the ground - with the intention of bashing Israel," Israeli Embassy spokesman Aaron Sagui said in a statement provided to CBSNews.com.

"This is clearly not a bona fide action, and the resulting report obviously does not aim to promote any real improvement as the UNICEF report did ... but only to make headlines."

While the Committee on the Rights of the Child acknowledges Israel's national security concerns, and that children on both sides of the conflict have suffered from the violence, it notes that Palestinians make up a disproportionate amount of the victims and lists Israel's "illegal long-lasting occupation of Palestinian territory" among the actions jeopardizing a peaceful future for Israeli and Palestinian children.

One of the more explosive allegations in the report is the "continuous use of Palestinian children as human shields and informants," of which the report says 14 cases have been reported in the last 3 years.

"[Israel's] soldiers have used Palestinian children to enter potentially dangerous buildings ahead of them and to stand in front of military vehicles in order to stop the throwing of stones against those vehicles," the committee writes in the report, citing

the U.N.'s Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms while Countering Terrorism.

ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, such activity has largely gone unpunished.

"The soldiers convicted for having forced at gunpoint a nine-year old child to search bags suspected of containing explosives only received a suspended sentence of three months and were demoted."

In a follow-up statement, Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs called the human shield accusations "salient in bad faith."

"The authors were fully informed (by an official Israeli document submitted by an Israeli delegation) that instructions have indeed been issued and that the use of children as human shields is totally forbidden," the statement reads, adding that no human shield incidents have been "registered and proven."

The U.N. report directs its harshest accusations at the alleged torture and mistreatment of Palestinian children in Israeli military and police custody. Children detained in areas like Gaza and the West Bank, the report says, are "systematically subject to physical and verbal violence, humiliation, painful restraints, hooding of the head and face in a sack, threatened with death, physical violence, and sexual assault against themselves or members of their family, restricted access to toilet, food and water."

In its statement, Israel's Ministry of Foreign affairs said the report's claims of corporal punishment in detention are "totally unsubstantiated and inaccurate."

Many of the report's accusations of child detainee mistreatment, though, mirror findings in the review UNICEF released in March, a review Israeli spokesmen have pointed to as credible.

"Israel has nothing to hide and when addressed by a serious and credible organization such as UNICEF, we cooperate and strive to implement the recommendations of its reports," Israeli Embassy spokesman Sagui said in a statement.



[^ Obama visits the Holy Land---19 Photos](#)

UNICEF'S MARCH REVIEW, while tamer and more focused than the sprawling report by the U.N.'s Committee on the Rights of the Child, also includes serious charges concerning the treatment of Palestinian children in military custody, including "examples of practices that amount to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

"The common experience of many children is being aggressively awakened in the middle of the night by many armed soldiers and being forcibly brought to an interrogation centre tied and blindfolded, sleep deprived and in a state of extreme fear," the UNICEF paper reads.

"The interrogation mixes intimidation, threats and physical violence, with the clear purpose of forcing the child to confess."

Both reports note that Palestinian children are often accused of throwing stones at Israeli military vehicles, and charge Israeli forces with sometimes subjecting young suspects to solitary confinement. Both reports allege that the children are sometimes coerced into confessions, often by signing forms written in Hebrew, a language the reports note most Palestinian children don't understand.

The Committee on the Rights of the Child's report, Israel's MFA went on to say in its statement, reflected poorly on the U.N.

"The list of false, flawed and gratuitous allegations goes on and on: this report is shaming the institution which commissioned it."

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^ 7. U.N. says Israel violated international law, after shells hit school in Gaza

By [SUDARSAN RAGHAVAN](#), [WILLIAM BOOTH](#), [RUTH EGLASH](#) July 30, 2014 [Middle East](#)

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/israel-presses-attack-16-killed-at-un-school/2014/07/30/4a643588-17a5-11e4-85b6-c1451e622637_story.html?utm_term=.b084e9f2dcce

GAZA CITY — United Nations officials accused Israel of violating international law after artillery shells slammed into a school overflowing with evacuees Wednesday, an attack

that Palestinian and U.N. officials said killed at least 20 people and wounded dozens as they slept.

It was one of the worst mass-casualty incidents of the three-week war. The building was the sixth U.N. school in the Gaza Strip to be rocked by explosions during the conflict.

Israeli officials said they were trying to determine who was responsible for the bloodshed. In past incidents, the Israeli military blamed errant rocket or mortar fire by Gaza militants for explosions at U.N. schools — or said the blasts were under investigation.

The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which operated the school-turned-shelter in the Jabalya refugee camp, said it had gathered evidence, analyzed bomb fragments and examined craters after the attack. Its [initial assessment](#) was that three Israeli artillery shells hit the school where 3,300 people had sought refuge.

“I condemn in the strongest possible terms this serious violation of international law by Israeli forces,” said Pierre Krähenbühl, the UNRWA commissioner-general. “This is an affront to all of us, a source of universal shame. Today the world stands disgraced.”

Israel hits power plant, targets a top Hamas leader *(View Photos)*



Israel hit Gaza with heavy fire overnight, forcing Gaza’s only electricity plant to shut down, according to Palestinian officials.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said “all available evidence points to Israeli artillery as the cause” of the pre-dawn attack.

Ban said Israel had received the precise GPS coordinates of the school from the United

Nations 17 times.

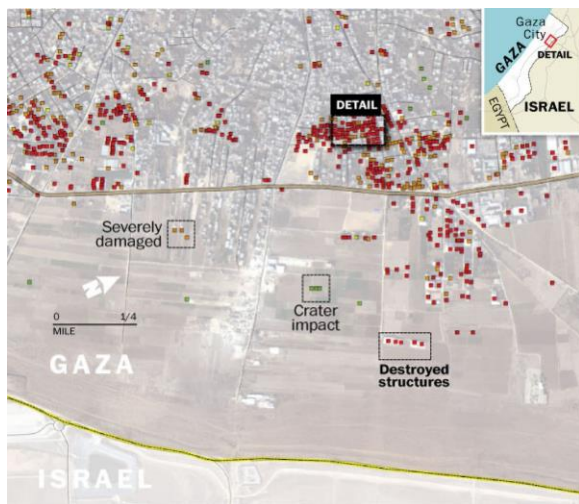
The White House issued a statement condemning the attack and lamenting the deaths, but did not mention Israel as the possible source.

The Israeli military announced a brief humanitarian cease-fire in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday evening. The pause in hostilities would not apply to areas in which the military is operating, it said.

A HAMAS SPOKESMAN DISMISSED the lull as a “media stunt” that would not allow rescue workers to recover casualties in combat zones that Israel was excluding from the cease-fire.

Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a senior spokesman for the Israeli military, called the shelling of the U.N. school “a true tragedy,” and said the incident is under investigation.

“There was mortar fire in the area, directed at our troops,” he said. “There was an exchange of fire. We have yet to determine if it was Israeli munitions that struck the compound.”



(VIEW GRAPHIC) [Satellite images released by the United Nations show the impact of Israeli strikes on structures in Gaza. One of the most ravaged areas is the Shijaiyah neighborhood in the southeastern part of Gaza City. View Graphic](#)

One of the survivors said she had no doubt who was at fault for the barrage.

“There were five shells, one after the other. We were a clear target,” said Hannah

Sweilem, 33, who was in the shelter with her husband and eight children. “If the Israelis say it was a mistake, they are lying.”

“We blame the United Nations,” she added. “We are under [their protection](#).”

The Israeli military said Hamas and other militant groups are fighting in residential areas and using civilians as human shields.

Lerner said that several previous high-profile attacks blamed on Israel, at Gaza City’s Shifa Hospital and the Al-Shati refugee camp, were actually blunders by Hamas, whose rockets and mortars were falling short of their targets in Israel.

Hidden caches of rockets have been discovered at three U.N. schools in Gaza since the conflict began, and the refugee agency has accused unnamed groups of putting civilians at risk. “We call on all the warring parties to respect the inviolability of U.N. property,” UNRWA spokesman Chris Gunness said in a statement Tuesday, after weapons were found at one such facility.

Mounting casualties

Gaza Health Ministry officials said that more than 105 people were killed in Israeli strikes Wednesday and that more than 400 were injured as Israel pressed ahead with its escalated campaign against the coastal enclave.

The Palestinian [casualty toll](#) rose to at least 1,340 killed and about 7,200 injured, Gaza health officials said. Many of the casualties have been civilians, including about a third who are children, according to the United Nations.

Israel has lost at least 56 soldiers in the conflict, its largest toll since its [2006 war in Lebanon](#). Mortar and rocket attacks from Gaza also have killed two Israeli civilians and a Thai worker.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned his country in a televised address Monday evening to be prepared for a prolonged campaign against Hamas. Israel has said it cannot stop until it dismantles a network of tunnels that are used by militants to infiltrate into Israel from Gaza.

Witnesses at the Jabalya Primary School for Girls said the shelling Wednesday struck a classroom where about 50 people, mostly women and children, were sleeping. The room's roof was ripped apart.

Most of the dead, however, were young men who had woken for the traditional Muslim dawn prayer, said Moen al-Masr, a doctor at the Kamal Odwan hospital.

Said Allah al-Bes, 33, who was seeking refuge at the school with his wife and three sons: "We found people torn to pieces. It was like hell."

Bes and his family went to the U.N. facility after an earlier attack on a U.N.-run school in Beit Hanoun. "We have learned no place is safe in Gaza," he said.

BOOTH and **EGLASH** reported from Jerusalem. **ISLAM ABDEL KARIM** in Gaza City contributed to this report. **2623 Comments**

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^ 8. Gaza: at least 15 killed and 90 injured as another UN school is hit

UN official condemns 'in the strongest possible terms this serious violation of international law by Israeli forces' By: [HARRIET SHERWOOD](#) in Jerusalem

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<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/30/gaza-another-un-school-hit-in-further-night-of-fierce-bombardment> This article is 3 years old 34,537 Shares



^ VIDEO 3:23 Palestinians mourn loved ones killed in Israeli attack on UN school shelter in Gaza

At least 15 Palestinians were killed and about 90 injured early on Wednesday when a UN school sheltering displaced people was hit by shells during a second night of relentless bombardment that followed [an Israeli warning](#) of a protracted military campaign.

Pierre Krahenbuhl, commissioner-general of the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, UNRWA, condemned "in in the strongest possible terms this serious violation of international law by Israeli forces".

He said in a statement: "Last night, children were killed as they slept next to their parents on the floor of a classroom in a UN-designated shelter in [Gaza](#). Children killed in their sleep; this is an affront to all of us, a source of universal shame. Today the world stands disgraced.

"We have visited the site and gathered evidence. We have analysed fragments, examined craters and other damage. Our initial assessment is that it was Israeli artillery that hit our school, in which 3,300 people had sought refuge. We believe there were at least three impacts.

“IT IS TOO EARLY TO GIVE A CONFIRMED OFFICIAL DEATH TOLL. But we know that there were multiple civilian deaths and injuries including of women and children and the UNRWA guard who was trying to protect the site. These are people who were instructed to leave their homes by the Israeli army.”

It was the sixth time that UNRWA schools had been struck, he added. “Our staff, the very people leading the humanitarian response are being killed. Our shelters are overflowing. Tens of thousands may soon be stranded in the streets of Gaza, without food, water and shelter if attacks on these areas continue.”

At the school, Assad Sabah said he and his five children were huddling under desks in one of the classrooms because of the constant sound of tank fire throughout the night.

“We were scared to death,” he told the Associated Press. “After 4.30am, tanks started firing more. Three explosions shook the school. One classroom collapsed over the head of the people who were inside.”

A spokeswoman from the [Israel](#) Defence Forces said that its initial inquiries showed that “ Hamas militants fired mortar shells from the vicinity of the school, and [Israeli] soldiers responded by firing towards the origins of the fire”. An investigation was continuing, she added.

A UN source said there was no evidence of militant activity inside the school.

The shelling of the school came as diplomatic attention was focussed on Cairo, where a delegation including the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, and representatives of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, the main militant factions in Gaza, was due to take part in ceasefire talks. A key issue was whether the Gaza-based factions and their armed wings accepted the authority of the delegation.

The Israeli security cabinet was also due to meet on Wednesday afternoon and would consider any progress made in Cairo. Israel’s political and military leaders face crucial decisions on whether to press deeper into Gaza once the cross-border tunnels have been located and destroyed, or whether to accept a “quiet for quiet” deal. “The next 24-72 hours will be critical,” said a diplomatic source.

The last two nights have seen the most fierce bombardment in this Gaza offensive, with intense air strikes, tank shelling and bombardment from Israeli gunboats. In 23 days more than 1,240 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been killed. On the Israeli side 53 soldiers and three civilians have been killed.

The shelling of the UN school followed an incident last week when another UN school in Beit Hanoun was hit as the playground was filled with families awaiting evacuation amid heavy fighting. Israel denied it was responsible for the deaths, saying a single “errant” shell fired by its forces hit the school playground, which was empty at the time.



Aftermath of the strike on a UN school in Gaza City. Photograph: MARCO LONGARI/AFP/Getty Images

But according to testimonies gathered by UN staff, an initial shell was followed by “several others in the close vicinity of the school within a matter of minutes”, spokesman Chris Gunness said. Reporters who visited the scene minutes afterwards said damage and debris was consistent with mortar rounds.

UNRWA, said on Tuesday it had found a cache of rockets at one of its schools in Gaza and deplored those who had put them there for placing civilians in harm’s way.

“This is yet another flagrant violation of the neutrality of our premises. We call on all the warring parties to respect the inviolability of UN property,” Gunness said. Two similar discoveries were made last week.

Israel says militants from Hamas and other organisations launch rockets from the vicinity of UNRWA properties.

More than 200,000 people in Gaza have taken shelter in the UN’s schools and properties after Israel warned them to leave whole neighbourhoods that it was planning to bomb. UNRWA said it was at “breaking point”.

The Israeli military said it had targeted more than 4,000 sites in Gaza since the start of the conflict on 8 July. It had detonated three tunnels in Gaza in the past 24 hours, it added. Among the overnight targets were five mosques, which the IDF said housed tunnel shafts, weapons stores and lookout posts, and two “facilities” utilised by senior Hamas militants.

International pressure for an end to the bloodshed has continued to mount. On Tuesday the British Prime Minister, David Cameron, added his weight to calls for an unconditional, immediate humanitarian ceasefire.

“WHAT WE’RE SEEING IS ABSOLUTELY HEARTBREAKING IN TERMS OF THE LOSS OF LIFE ... everyone wants to see this stopped,” he said. Blaming Hamas for triggering the conflict, he added: “Hamas must stop attacking Israel with rocket attacks. That is how this started. It’s completely unjustified and they need to stop as part of the ceasefire.”

Four Latin American countries – Chile, Peru, Brazil and El Salvador – recalled their ambassadors to Israel. “Chile observes with great concern and discouragement that the military operations – which at this point appear to be a collective punishment to the Palestinian civil population in Gaza – don’t respect fundamental norms of international humanitarian law,” its foreign ministry said.

But support for the military operation among the Israeli public remained solid. A poll published by Tel Aviv University on Tuesday found 95% of Israeli Jews felt the offensive was justified. Only 4% believed too much force had been used.

Hamas released a video showing fighters inside tunnels in Gaza and containing a voice message from Mohammed Deif, the leader of its armed wing, the Qassam Brigades. “The occupying entity will not enjoy security unless our people live in freedom and dignity,” Deif said. “There will be no ceasefire before the [Israeli] aggression is stopped and the blockade is lifted. We will not accept interim solutions.”

Story timeline

[12 June 2014](#) *Three Israeli teenagers are kidnapped hitchhiking in the West Bank*

[30 June 2014](#) *Their bodies are found. Israeli PM Binyamin Netanyahu says Hamas is responsible*

[2 July 2014](#) *A 16-year-old Palestinian boy is abducted and murdered in a suspected revenge attack*

[8 July 2014](#) *Israel retaliates against Hamas rocket fire with air strikes on Gaza*

[18 July 2014](#) *Israeli ground forces enter Gaza after efforts to secure a ceasefire collapse*

[19 - 20 July 2014](#) *More than 100 Palestinians and 13 Israeli soldiers are killed in the bloodiest day of the conflict*

[28 July 2014](#) *Israel says Gaza campaign will continue 'until mission is accomplished'*

[1 August 2014](#) *72-hour ceasefire unravels hours after it begins*

[8 August 2014](#) *Second ceasefire expires with no deal or extension*

ON TUESDAY FLAMES AND CLOUDS OF BLACK SMOKE billowed over Gaza's only power plant after it was destroyed. "The power plant is finished," said its director, Mohammed al-Sharif, signalling a new crisis for Gaza's 1.8 million people, who were already enduring power cuts of more than 20 hours a day.

Amnesty International said the crippling of the power station amounted to "collective punishment of Palestinians". The strike on the plant will worsen already severe problems with Gaza's water supply, sewage treatment and power supplies to medical facilities.

"We need at least one year to repair the power plant, the turbines, the fuel tanks and the control room," said Fathi Sheik Khalil of the Gaza energy authority. "Everything was burned." He said crew members were trapped by the fire for several hours before they were able to be evacuated.

Gaza City officials said damage to the power station could paralyse pumps and urged residents to ration water.

The home of the Hamas leader in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, was destroyed on Tuesday and a building used by Hamas-controlled broadcast outlets was damaged. Haniyeh was not at home when a missile struck shortly before dawn; most of Hamas's senior leaders are presumed to be residing in underground bunkers for the duration of the war.

The US secretary of state, John Kerry, said he was in discussions with Israel's Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, to find an end to the fighting in Gaza. The pair had spoken "two, three, four times a day in recent days", Kerry told reporters in Washington.

They were working "very carefully and thoughtfully" on ways to "prevent this spiralling downwards", he said.

Kerry reiterated US support for Israel's right to self-defence, "to live free from rockets and tunnels". The secretary of state has come under sustained attack in Israel over what was perceived as undue sympathy for Hamas's position in ceasefire negotiations in the Middle East and Paris last week.

The Israeli human rights organisation B'Tselem said 13 Palestinians in the West Bank had been killed by Israeli security forces since the start of the conflict in Gaza, raising concerns about excessive use of live fire.

^ 9. Debunking Israel's 11 Main Myths about Gaza, Hamas and War Crimes

By: [MEHDI HASAN](#) Al Jazeera English Presenter THE BLOG 80k

28/07/2014 11:55 BST | Updated 27/09/2014 10:59 BST

http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/mehdi-hasan/gaza-israel_b_5624401.html

^ **VIDEO** (Embedded) 3:30 *Israel believes these 11 things About Gaza and Hamas*

You've got to hand it to Israeli spinners like Mark Regev. They are masters of PR. In fact, as the *Independent's* [Patrick Cockburn](#) revealed over the weekend, "the playbook they are using is a professional, well-researched and confidential study on how to influence the media and public opinion in America and Europe".

Let's be clear: I'm no fan of Hamas, a brutal and [anti-Semitic](#) group which has been accused by Amnesty International and other NGOs of [human rights abuses](#) against the people of Gaza and of [war crimes](#) against the people of Israel. Firing rockets into civilian areas isn't justified under international law, even if it is framed as part of a (legitimate) struggle against foreign military occupation.

Having said that, however, in recent days I've been debating supporters of Israel's latest assault on Gaza on [radio](#) and on [Twitter](#) and I've been astonished not just by the sheer number of fact-free claims made by those supporters, but also by their confidence, slickness and sheer message discipline. According to the pro-Israel, pro-IDF crowd, Hamas is to blame for everything.

This, of course, is utter nonsense. To [quote](#) the late US senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan: "You are entitled to your opinion. But you are not entitled to your own facts."

So, in a Moynihanian spirit, here are fact-filled, evidence-based rebuttals to the 11 main myths, half-truths and self-serving 'talking points' that are repeatedly pushed by various Israeli spokespersons, both on the airwaves and on social media:

TOP STORIES: [US Issues Stinging Condemnation Of 'Appalling' Attack On Gaza School](#)

[Man Bullied By Sean Hannity Has The Last Laugh, Thanks To Russell Brand](#)

1) The Gaza Strip isn't occupied by Israel

[Boston Globe](#): "Israeli-imposed buffer zones... now absorb nearly 14 percent of Gaza's total land and at least 48 percent of total arable land. Similarly, the sea buffer zone covers 85 percent of the maritime area promised to Palestinians in the Oslo Accords, reducing 20 nautical miles to three." [Human Rights Watch](#): "Israel also continues to control the population registry for residents of the Gaza Strip, years after it withdrew its ground forces and settlements there." [B'Tselem, 2013](#): "Israel continues to maintain exclusive control of Gaza's airspace and the territorial waters, just as it has since it occupied the Gaza Strip in 1967."

2) Israel wants a ceasefire but Hamas doesn't

[Al Jazeera](#): "Meshaal said Hamas wants the 'aggression to stop tomorrow, today, or even this minute. But [Israel must] lift the blockade with guarantees and not as a promise for future negotiations'. He added 'we will not shut the door in the face of any humanitarian ceasefire backed by a real aid programme'." [Jerusalem Post](#): "One day after an Egyptian-brokered cease-fire accepted by Israel, but rejected by Hamas, fell through, the terrorist organization proposed a 10-year end to hostilities in return for its conditions being met by Israel, Channel 2 reported Wednesday.. Hamas's conditions were the release of re-arrested Palestinian prisoners who were let go in the Schalit deal, the opening of Gaza-Israel border crossings in order to allow citizens and goods to pass through, and international supervision of the Gazan seaport in place of the current Israeli blockade." [BBC](#): "Israel's security cabinet has rejected a week-long Gaza ceasefire proposal put forward by US Secretary of State John Kerry 'as it stands'."

3) Israel, unlike Hamas, doesn't deliberately target civilians

[The Guardian](#): "It was there that the second [Israeli] shell hit the beach, those firing apparently adjusting their fire to target the fleeing survivors. As it exploded, journalists standing by the terrace wall shouted: 'They are only children.'" [UN high commissioner for human rights Navi Pillay](#): "A number of incidents, along with the high number of civilian deaths, belies the [Israeli] claim that all necessary precautions are being taken to protect civilian lives." [United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, 2009](#): "The tactics used by the Israeli armed forces in the Gaza offensive are consistent with previous practices, most recently during the Lebanon war in 2006. A concept known as the Dahiya doctrine emerged then, involving the application of disproportionate force and the causing of great damage and destruction to civilian property and infrastructure,

and suffering to civilian populations. The Mission concludes from a review of the facts on the ground that it... appears to have been precisely what was put into practice."

4) Only Hamas is guilty of war crimes, not Israel

[Human Rights Watch](#): "Israeli forces may also have knowingly or recklessly attacked people who were clearly civilians, such as young boys, and civilian structures, including a hospital - laws-of-war violations that are indicative of war crimes." [Amnesty International](#): "Deliberately attacking a civilian home is a war crime, and the overwhelming scale of destruction of civilian homes, in some cases with entire families inside them, points to a distressing pattern of repeated violations of the laws of war."

5) Hamas use the civilians of Gaza as 'human shields'

[Jeremy Bowen, BBC Middle East editor](#): "I saw no evidence during my week in Gaza of Israel's accusation that Hamas uses Palestinians as human shields." [The Guardian](#): "In the past week, the Guardian has seen large numbers of people fleeing different neighbourhoods.. and no evidence that Hamas had compelled them to stay." [The Independent](#): "Some Gazans have admitted that they were afraid of criticizing Hamas, but none have said they had been forced by the organisation to stay in places of danger and become unwilling human-shields." [Reuters, 2013](#): "A United Nations human rights body accused Israeli forces on Thursday of mistreating Palestinian children, including by torturing those in custody and using others as human shields."

6) This current Gaza conflict began with Hamas rocket fire on 30 June 2014

[Times of Israel](#): "Hamas operatives were behind a large volley of rockets which slammed into Israel Monday morning, the first time in years the Islamist group has directly challenged the Jewish state, according to Israeli defense officials... The security sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, assessed that Hamas had probably launched the barrage in revenge for an Israeli airstrike several hours earlier which killed one person and injured three more... Hamas hasn't fired rockets into Israel since Operation Pillar of Defense ended in November 2012." [The Nation](#): "During ten days of Operation Brother's Keeper in the West Bank [before the start of the Gaza conflict], Israel arrested approximately 800 Palestinians without charge or trial, killed nine civilians and raided nearly 1,300 residential, commercial and public buildings. Its military operation targeted Hamas members released during the Gilad Shalit prisoner exchange in 2011."

7) Hamas has never stopped firing rockets into Israel

[Jewish Daily Forward](#): "Hamas hadn't fired a single rocket since [2012 Gaza conflict], and had largely suppressed fire by smaller jihadi groups. Rocket firings, averaging 240 per month in 2007, dropped to five per month in 2013." [International Crisis Group](#): "Fewer rockets were fired from Gaza in 2013 than in any year since 2001, and nearly all those that were fired between the November 2012 ceasefire and the current crisis were launched by groups other than Hamas; the Israeli security establishment testified to the aggressive anti-rocket efforts made by the new police force Hamas established specifically for that purpose.. As Israel (and Egypt) rolled back the 2012 understandings - some of which were implemented spottily at best - so too did Hamas roll back its anti-rocket efforts."

8) Hamas provoked Israel by kidnapping and killing three Israeli teenagers

[Jewish Daily Forward](#): "The [Israeli] government had known almost from the beginning that the boys were dead. It maintained the fiction that it hoped to find them alive as a pretext to dismantle Hamas' West Bank operations... Nor was that the only fib. It was clear from the beginning that the kidnappers weren't acting on orders from Hamas leadership in Gaza or Damascus. Hamas' Hebron branch -- more a crime family than a clandestine organization -- had a history of acting without the leaders' knowledge, sometimes against their interests." [BBC correspondent Jon Donnison](#): "Israeli police Mickey Rosenfeld tells me men who killed 3 Israeli teens def lone cell, Hamas affiliated but not operating under leadership... Seems to contradict the line from Netanyahu government."

9) Hamas rule, not Israel's blockade, is to blame for the humanitarian crisis in the Gaza Strip

[US State Department cable](#): "Israeli officials have confirmed to Embassy officials on multiple occasions that they intend to keep the Gazan economy functioning at the lowest level possible consistent with avoiding a humanitarian crisis... Israeli officials have confirmed... on multiple occasions that they intend to keep the Gazan economy on the brink of collapse without quite pushing it over the edge." [The Guardian](#): "The Israeli military made precise calculations of Gaza's daily calorie needs to avoid malnutrition during a blockade imposed on the Palestinian territory between 2007 and mid-2010, according to files the defence ministry released on Wednesday under a court order... The Israeli advocacy group Gisha... waged a long court battle to release the document."

Its members say Israel calculated the calorie needs for Gaza's population so as to restrict the quantity of food it allowed in."

10) The Israeli government, unlike Hamas, wants a two-state solution

[Times of Israel](#): "[Netanyahu] made explicitly clear that he could never, ever, countenance a fully sovereign Palestinian state in the West Bank... Amid the current conflict, he elaborated, 'I think the Israeli people understand now what I always say: that there cannot be a situation, under any agreement, in which we relinquish security control of the territory west of the River Jordan.'"

11) All serious analysts agree it was Hamas, and not Israel, that started this current conflict

[Nathan Thrall, senior Mid East analyst at the International Crisis Group, writing in the New York Times](#): "The current escalation in Gaza is a direct result of the choice by Israel and the West to obstruct the implementation of the April 2014 Palestinian reconciliation agreement." [Henry Siegman, former national director, American Jewish Congress, writing for Politico](#): "Israel's assault on Gaza... was not triggered by Hamas' rockets directed at Israel but by Israel's determination to bring down the Palestinian unity government that was formed in early June, even though that government was committed to honoring all of the conditions imposed by the international community for recognition of its legitimacy."

MORE: [video](#) [Gaza](#) [world](#) [occupation](#) [Politics](#) [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) [IDF](#) [Hamas](#) [Israel](#) [Operation Protective Edge](#)

^ 10. Hamas, Son of Israel

By [JUSTIN RAIMONDO](#) Posted on [January 27, 2006](#)

<http://original.antiwar.com/justin/2006/01/27/hamas-son-of-israel/>

Amid all the [howls of pain](#) and [gnashing of teeth](#) over [the triumph of Hamas](#) in the Palestinian elections, one fact remains relatively obscure, albeit highly relevant: Israel did much to [launch Hamas](#) as an effective force in the occupied territories. If ever there was a clear case of "[blowback](#)," then this is it. As Richard Sale pointed out in a piece for UPI:



"Israel and Hamas may currently be locked in deadly combat, but, according to several current and former U.S. intelligence officials, beginning in the late 1970s, Tel Aviv gave direct and indirect financial aid to Hamas over a period of years. Israel 'aided Hamas directly – the Israelis wanted to use it as a counterbalance to the PLO (Palestinian Liberation Organization),' said Tony Cordesman, Middle East analyst for the Center for Strategic [and International] Studies. Israel's support for Hamas 'was a direct attempt to divide and dilute support for a strong, secular PLO by using a competing religious alternative,' said a former senior CIA official."

Middle East analyst Ray Hanania [concurs](#):

"In addition to hoping to turn the Palestinian masses away from Arafat and the PLO, the Likud leadership believed they could achieve a workable alliance with Islamic, anti-Arafat forces that would also extend Israel's control over the occupied territories."

In a conscious effort to undermine the [Palestine Liberation Organization](#) and the leadership of [Yasser Arafat](#), in 1978 the government of [then-Prime Minister](#) Menachem Begin [approved the application](#) of [Sheik Ahmad Yassin](#) to start a "humanitarian" organization known as the Islamic Association, or [Mujama](#). The roots of this Islamist group were in the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood, and this was the seed that eventually grew into Hamas – but not before it was amply fertilized and nurtured with Israeli funding and political support.

Begin and his successor, [Yitzhak Shamir](#), launched an effort to undercut the PLO, creating the so-called [Village Leagues](#), composed of local councils of handpicked Palestinians who were willing to collaborate with Israel – and, in return, were put on the Israeli payroll. Sheik Yassin and his followers soon became a force within the Village Leagues. This tactical alliance between Yassin and the Israelis was based on a shared antipathy to the militantly [secular and leftist](#) PLO: the Israelis allowed Yassin's group to publish a newspaper and set up an extensive network of charitable organizations, which collected funds not only from the Israelis but also from Arab states opposed to Arafat.

Ami Isseroff, writing on MideastWeb, [shows](#) how the Israelis deliberately promoted the Islamists of the future Hamas by helping them turn the [Islamic University of Gaza](#) into a base from which the group recruited activists – and the suicide bombers of tomorrow. As the only higher-education facility in the Gaza strip, and the only such institution open to Palestinians since Anwar Sadat closed Egyptian colleges to them, IUG contained within its grounds the seeds of the future [Palestinian state](#). When a conflict arose over religious issues, however, the Israeli authorities sided with the Islamists against the secularists of the Fatah-PLO mainstream. As Isseroff relates, the Islamists

“Encouraged Israeli authorities to dismiss their opponents in the committee in February of 1981, resulting in subsequent Islamisation of IUG policy and staff (including the obligation on women to wear the hijab and thobe and separate entrances for men and women), and enforced by violence and ostracization of dissenters. Tacit complicity from both university and Israeli authorities allowed Mujama to keep a weapons cache to use against secularists. By the mid-1980s, it was the largest university in occupied territories with 4,500 students, and student elections were won handily by Mujama.”

Again, the motive was to offset Arafat's influence and divide the Palestinians. In the short term, this may have worked to some extent; in the longer term, however, it backfired badly – as demonstrated by the results of the recent Palestinian election.

The Hamas [infrastructure](#) of mosques, clinics, kindergartens, and other educational institutions flourished not only because they were lavishly funded, but also due to being efficiently run. Sheik Yassin and the future leaders of Hamas acquired a reputation for “clean” governance and good administrative practices, which would greatly aid them – especially in comparison to the PLO, which was [widely perceived](#) as corrupt. Indeed, “[clean government](#)” – and not the necessity of armed struggle – was the main theme of their successful election campaign.

The response of Israel and the U.S. has been [shock](#), [horror](#) – and a [stated refusal](#) to deal with any government dominated by Hamas. U.S. congressional leaders – who unhelpfully [passed a resolution](#) prior to the Palestinian poll that demanded Hamas be banned from running – are now [calling](#) the entire “peace process” into question. Yet no one acknowledges that the victory of the Suicide Bombers Party demonstrated, in practice, an ancient principle expressed, I believe, by no less an authority than the Bible ([Galatians 6:7](#)):

“Be not deceived. God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

This “[blowback](#)” principle applies to Hamas not only insofar as Israel was involved in funding and encouraging Mujama, but also, after the consolidation of Hamas as an armed group, due to Israeli [military policy](#). The much-touted “[withdrawal](#),” which amounts to Israel giving up Gaza while [strengthening its hand](#) elsewhere in the occupied territories, has been [grist](#) for the radical Islamist mill, as has the [Wall of Separation](#) and the [attempt](#) to quash the vote in East Jerusalem. Israel’s relentless offensive against its perceived enemies – first Fatah, now Hamas and Islamic Jihad – has created a [backlash](#) and solidified support for fundamentalist extremist factions in the Palestinian community.

Likewise, the victory of Hamas will embolden the [ultra-Zionists](#) in Israel, who similarly mix a [fanatic theology](#) with faith in a military “[solution](#)” to the Palestinian “[problem](#).” The electoral victory of Hamas was only a few hours old before Benjamin “Bibi” [Netanyahu](#) went on television explaining why any concessions to the Palestinians – including the Gaza pullback – only served to embolden the most radical elements, such as Hamas.

The stricken [Ariel Sharon](#) lies in his hospital bed, [unconscious](#) – while his unilateral “land for peace” [plan](#) suffers from a [very similar condition](#). Sharon’s newly-formed [Kadima Party](#) is the big potential loser in all this, with Netanyahu’s Likud [looking to](#) gain bigtime. The irony is that, as defense minister, it was Sharon who helped [conceive and oversee](#) the Village Leagues scheme that did so much to implant and empower Hamas. Like some Middle Eastern version of [Dr. Frankenstein](#), he wound up being struck down by his own monstrous creation.

There is a lesson in there, somewhere, though it isn’t one the Israelis or their American sponsors seem capable of learning just yet.

The [idea](#) that voting is some kind of panacea that will cleanse the Middle East of a self-defeating radicalism is an illusion that died a painful death with the election victory of Hamas. It had earlier suffered near-fatal convulsions with the [ascension to power](#) in Iraq of a Shi'ite fundamentalist coalition [closely tied to Iran](#). The [bitch-goddess](#) of capital-D Democracy is a fickle and often [perversely cruel deity](#), whose [worshippers](#) have been hit with a one-two punch as [they seek](#) to transform an entire region according to the canons of their [peculiar dogma](#).

NOTES IN THE MARGIN

More on Hamas and the “[blowback](#)” effect from [Robert Dreyfuss](#), one of my favorite writers, in [this podcast](#) interview with the [History News Network](#)’s [Rick Shenkman](#).

Maybe [this is why](#) the president and his supporters often refer to the “war on terrorism” as if it will go on forever.

David Frum, former presidential speechwriter and National Review’s resident neocon [commissar of political correctness](#), [cheers](#) Jacques Chirac’s [threat](#) to nuke hundreds of thousands of innocent human beings. Frum’s only worry is that Chirac’s nuclear sabre-rattling won’t be believed. On the other hand, it would be all too believable if the prime minister of Israel – who has his finger hovering over the nuclear button – were to make such an explicit threat. Which puts Iran’s ambition to go nuclear – the real subject of Frum’s outburst – in perspective.

Read more by Justin Raimondo

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^ 11. How Israel Helped to Spawn Hamas

By **ANDREW HIGGINS** Updated Jan. 24, 2009 12:01 a.m. ET 78 comments

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/SB123275572295011847>



Pic: Moshav Tekuma, Israel

SURVEYING THE WRECKAGE OF A NEIGHBOR'S BUNGALOW hit by a Palestinian rocket, retired Israeli official Avner Cohen traces the missile's trajectory back to an "enormous, stupid mistake" made 30 years ago.

"Hamas, to my great regret, is Israel's creation," says Mr. Cohen, a Tunisian-born Jew who worked in Gaza for more than two decades. Responsible for religious affairs in the region until 1994, Mr. Cohen watched the Islamist movement take shape, muscle aside secular Palestinian rivals and then morph into what is today Hamas, a militant group that is sworn to Israel's destruction.

Instead of trying to curb Gaza's Islamists from the outset, says Mr. Cohen, Israel for years tolerated and, in some cases, encouraged them as a counterweight to the secular nationalists of the Palestine Liberation Organization and its dominant faction, Yasser Arafat's Fatah. Israel cooperated with a crippled, half-blind cleric named Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, even as he was laying the foundations for what would become Hamas. Sheikh Yassin continues to inspire militants today; during the recent war in Gaza, Hamas fighters confronted Israeli troops with "Yassins," primitive rocket-propelled grenades named in honor of the cleric.



Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, the founder of Hamas. ABID KATIB/Getty Images

Last Saturday, after 22 days of war, Israel announced a halt to the offensive. The assault was aimed at stopping Hamas rockets from falling on Israel. Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

hailed a "determined and successful military operation." More than 1,200 Palestinians had died. Thirteen Israelis were also killed.

HAMAS RESPONDED THE NEXT DAY by lobbing five rockets towards the Israeli town of Sderot, a few miles down the road from Moshav Tekuma, the farming village where Mr. Cohen lives. Hamas then announced its own cease-fire.

Since then, Hamas leaders have emerged from hiding and reasserted their control over Gaza. Egyptian-mediated talks aimed at a more durable truce are expected to start this weekend. President Barack Obama said this week that lasting calm "requires more than a long cease-fire" and depends on Israel and a future Palestinian state "living side by side in peace and security."

A look at Israel's decades-long dealings with Palestinian radicals -- including some little-known attempts to cooperate with the Islamists -- reveals a catalog of unintended and often perilous consequences. Time and again, Israel's efforts to find a pliant Palestinian partner that is both credible with Palestinians and willing to eschew violence, have backfired. Would-be partners have turned into foes or lost the support of their people.

Israel's experience echoes that of the U.S., which, during the Cold War, looked to Islamists as a useful ally against communism. Anti-Soviet forces backed by America after Moscow's 1979 invasion of Afghanistan later mutated into al Qaeda.



Hamas supporters in Gaza City after the cease-fire. APA /Landov

At stake is the future of what used to be the British Mandate of Palestine, the biblical lands now comprising Israel and the Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza. Since 1948, when the state of Israel was established, Israelis and Palestinians have each asserted claims over the same territory.

The Palestinian cause was for decades led by the PLO, which Israel regarded as a terrorist outfit and sought to crush until the 1990s, when the PLO dropped its vow to destroy the Jewish state. The PLO's Palestinian rival, Hamas, led by Islamist militants, refused to recognize Israel and vowed to continue "resistance." Hamas now controls Gaza, a crowded, impoverished sliver of land on the Mediterranean from which Israel pulled out troops and settlers in 2005.

WHEN ISRAEL FIRST ENCOUNTERED ISLAMISTS in Gaza in the 1970s and '80s, they seemed focused on studying the Quran, not on confrontation with Israel. The Israeli government officially recognized a precursor to Hamas called Mujama Al-Islamiya, registering the group as a charity. It allowed Mujama members to set up an Islamic university and build mosques, clubs and schools. Crucially, Israel often stood aside when the Islamists and their secular left-wing Palestinian rivals battled, sometimes violently, for influence in both Gaza and the West Bank.

"When I look back at the chain of events I think we made a mistake," says David Hacham, who worked in Gaza in the late 1980s and early '90s as an Arab-affairs expert in the Israeli military. "But at the time nobody thought about the possible results."

Israeli officials who served in Gaza disagree on how much their own actions may have contributed to the rise of Hamas. They blame the group's recent ascent on outsiders, primarily Iran. This view is shared by the Israeli government. "Hamas in Gaza was built by Iran as a foundation for power, and is backed through funding, through training and through the provision of advanced weapons," Mr. Olmert said last Saturday. Hamas has denied receiving military assistance from Iran.

Arieh Spitzen, the former head of the Israeli military's Department of Palestinian Affairs, says that even if Israel had tried to stop the Islamists sooner, he doubts it could have done much to curb political Islam, a movement that was spreading across the Muslim world. He says attempts to stop it are akin to trying to change the internal rhythms of nature: "It is like saying: 'I will kill all the mosquitoes.' But then you get even worse insects that will kill you...You break the balance. You kill Hamas you might get al Qaeda."

When it became clear in the early 1990s that Gaza's Islamists had mutated from a religious group into a fighting force aimed at Israel -- particularly after they turned to suicide bombings in 1994 -- Israel cracked down with ferocious force. But each military assault only increased Hamas's appeal to ordinary Palestinians. The group ultimately trounced secular rivals, notably Fatah, in a 2006 election supported by Israel's main ally, the U.S.

Now, one big fear in Israel and elsewhere is that while Hamas has been hammered hard, the war might have boosted the group's popular appeal. Ismail Haniyeh, head of the Hamas administration in Gaza, came out of hiding last Sunday to declare that "God has granted us a great victory."

MOST DAMAGED FROM THE WAR, say many Palestinians, is Fatah, now Israel's principal negotiating partner. "Everyone is praising the resistance and thinks that Fatah is not part of it," says Baker Abu-Baker, a long-time Fatah supporter and author of a book on Hamas.

A Lack of Devotion

Hamas traces its roots back to the Muslim Brotherhood, a group set up in Egypt in 1928. The Brotherhood believed that the woes of the Arab world spring from a lack of Islamic devotion. Its slogan: "Islam is the solution. The Quran is our constitution." Its philosophy today underpins modern, and often militantly intolerant, political Islam from Algeria to Indonesia.

After the 1948 establishment of Israel, the Brotherhood recruited a few followers in Palestinian refugee camps in Gaza and elsewhere, but secular activists came to dominate the Palestinian nationalist movement.

At the time, Gaza was ruled by Egypt. The country's then-president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, was a secular nationalist who brutally repressed the Brotherhood. In 1967, Nasser suffered a crushing defeat when Israel triumphed in the six-day war. Israel took control of Gaza and also the West Bank.

"We were all stunned," says Palestinian writer and Hamas supporter Azzam Tamimi. He was at school at the time in Kuwait and says he became close to a classmate named Khaled Mashaal, now Hamas's Damascus-based political chief. "The Arab defeat provided the Brotherhood with a big opportunity," says Mr. Tamimi.

In Gaza, Israel hunted down members of Fatah and other secular PLO factions, but it dropped harsh restrictions imposed on Islamic activists by the territory's previous Egyptian rulers. Fatah, set up in 1964, was the backbone of the PLO, which was responsible for hijackings, bombings and other violence against Israel. Arab states in 1974 declared the PLO the "sole legitimate representative" of the Palestinian people world-wide.



A poster of the late Sheikh Yassin hangs near a building destroyed by the Israeli assault on Gaza. Heidi Levine/Sipa Press for The Wall Street Journal

THE MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, led in Gaza by Sheikh Yassin, was free to spread its message openly. In addition to launching various charity projects, Sheikh Yassin collected money to reprint the writings of Sayyid Qutb, an Egyptian member of the Brotherhood who, before his execution by President Nasser, advocated global jihad. He is now seen as one of the founding ideologues of militant political Islam.

Mr. Cohen, who worked at the time for the Israeli government's religious affairs department in Gaza, says he began to hear disturbing reports in the mid-1970s about Sheikh Yassin from traditional Islamic clerics. He says they warned that the sheikh had no formal Islamic training and was ultimately more interested in politics than faith. "They said, 'Keep away from Yassin. He is a big danger,'" recalls Mr. Cohen.

Instead, Israel's military-led administration in Gaza looked favorably on the paraplegic cleric, who set up a wide network of schools, clinics, a library and kindergartens. Sheikh Yassin formed the Islamist group Mujama al-Islamiya, which was officially recognized by Israel as a charity and then, in 1979, as an association. Israel also endorsed the establishment of the Islamic University of Gaza, which it now regards as a hotbed of militancy. The university was one of the first targets hit by Israeli warplanes in the recent war.

Brig. General Yosef Kastel, Gaza's Israeli governor at the time, is too ill to comment, says his wife. But Brig. Gen. Yitzhak Segev, who took over as governor in Gaza in late 1979, says he had no illusions about Sheikh Yassin's long-term intentions or the perils of political Islam. As Israel's former military attaché in Iran, he'd watched Islamic fervor topple the Shah. However, in Gaza, says Mr. Segev, "our main enemy was Fatah," and the cleric "was still 100% peaceful" towards Israel. Former officials say Israel was also at the time wary of being viewed as an enemy of Islam.

Mr. Segev says he had regular contact with Sheikh Yassin, in part to keep an eye on him. He visited his mosque and met the cleric around a dozen times. It was illegal at the time for Israelis to meet anyone from the PLO. Mr. Segev later arranged for the cleric to be taken to Israel for hospital treatment. "We had no problems with him," he says.

In fact, the cleric and Israel had a shared enemy: secular Palestinian activists. After a failed attempt in Gaza to oust secularists from leadership of the Palestinian Red Crescent, the Muslim version of the Red Cross, Mujama staged a violent demonstration, storming the Red Crescent building. Islamists also attacked shops selling liquor and cinemas. The Israeli military mostly stood on the sidelines.

MR. SEGEV SAYS THE ARMY DIDN'T WANT to get involved in Palestinian quarrels but did send soldiers to prevent Islamists from burning down the house of the Red Crescent's secular chief, a socialist who supported the PLO.

'An Alternative to the PLO'

Clashes between Islamists and secular nationalists spread to the West Bank and escalated during the early 1980s, convulsing college campuses, particularly Birzeit University, a center of political activism.

As the fighting between rival student factions at Birzeit grew more violent, Brig. Gen. Shalom Harari, then a military intelligence officer in Gaza, says he received a call from Israeli soldiers manning a checkpoint on the road out of Gaza. They had stopped a bus carrying Islamic activists who wanted to join the battle against Fatah at Birzeit. "I said: 'If they want to burn each other let them go,'" recalls Mr. Harari.

A leader of Birzeit's Islamist faction at the time was Mahmoud Musleh, now a pro-Hamas member of a Palestinian legislature elected in 2006. He recalls how usually aggressive Israeli security forces stood back and let conflagration develop. He denies any collusion between his own camp and the Israelis, but says "they hoped we would become an alternative to the PLO."

A year later, in 1984, the Israeli military received a tip-off from Fatah supporters that Sheikh Yassin's Gaza Islamists were collecting arms, according to Israeli officials in Gaza at the time. Israeli troops raided a mosque and found a cache of weapons. Sheikh Yassin was jailed. He told Israeli interrogators the weapons were for use against rival Palestinians, not Israel, according to Mr. Hacham, the military affairs expert who says he spoke frequently with jailed Islamists. The cleric was released after a year and continued to expand Mujama's reach across Gaza.

Around the time of Sheikh Yassin's arrest, Mr. Cohen, the religious affairs official, sent a report to senior Israeli military and civilian officials in Gaza. Describing the cleric as a "diabolical" figure, he warned that Israel's policy towards the Islamists was allowing Mujama to develop into a dangerous force.

"I believe that by continuing to turn away our eyes, our lenient approach to Mujama will in the future harm us. I therefore suggest focusing our efforts on finding ways to break up this monster before this reality jumps in our face," Mr. Cohen wrote.

MR. HARARI, THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, says this and other warnings were ignored. But, he says, the reason for this was neglect, not a desire to fortify the Islamists: "Israel never financed Hamas. Israel never armed Hamas."

Roni Shaked, a former officer of Shin Bet, Israel's internal security service, and author of a book on Hamas, says Sheikh Yassin and his followers had a long-term perspective whose dangers were not understood at the time. "They worked slowly, slowly, step by step according to the Muslim Brotherhood plan."

Declaring Jihad

In 1987, several Palestinians were killed in a traffic accident involving an Israeli driver, triggering a wave of protests that became known as the first Intifada, Mr. Yassin and six other Mujama Islamists launched Hamas, or the Islamic Resistance Movement. Hamas's charter, released a year later, is studded with anti-Semitism and declares "jihad its path and death for the cause of Allah its most sublime belief."

Israeli officials, still focused on Fatah and initially unaware of the Hamas charter, continued to maintain contacts with the Gaza Islamists. Mr. Hacham, the military Arab affairs expert, remembers taking one of Hamas's founders, Mahmoud Zahar, to meet Israel's then defense minister, Yitzhak Rabin, as part of regular consultations between Israeli officials and Palestinians not linked to the PLO. Mr. Zahar, the only Hamas founder known to be alive today, is now the group's senior political leader in Gaza.

In 1989, Hamas carried out its first attack on Israel, abducting and killing two soldiers. Israel arrested Sheikh Yassin and sentenced him to life. It later rounded up more than 400 suspected Hamas activists, including Mr. Zahar, and deported them to southern Lebanon. There, they hooked up with Hezbollah, the Iran-backed A-Team of anti-Israeli militancy.

Many of the deportees later returned to Gaza. Hamas built up its arsenal and escalated its attacks, while all along maintaining the social network that underpinned its support in Gaza.

MEANWHILE, ITS ENEMY, THE PLO, dropped its commitment to Israel's destruction and started negotiating a two-state settlement. Hamas accused it of treachery. This accusation found increasing resonance as Israel kept developing settlements on occupied Palestinian land, particularly the West Bank. Though the West Bank had passed to the nominal control of a new Palestinian Authority, it was still dotted with Israeli military checkpoints and a growing number of Israeli settlers.

Unable to uproot a now entrenched Islamist network that had suddenly replaced the PLO as its main foe, Israel tried to decapitate it. It started targeting Hamas leaders. This, too, made no dent in Hamas's support, and sometimes even helped the group. In 1997, for example, Israel's Mossad spy agency tried to poison Hamas's exiled political leader Mr. Mashaal, who was then living in Jordan.

The agents got caught and, to get them out of a Jordanian jail, Israel agreed to release Sheikh Yassin. The cleric set off on a tour of the Islamic world to raise support and money. He returned to Gaza to a hero's welcome.

Efraim Halevy, a veteran Mossad officer who negotiated the deal that released Sheikh Yassin, says the cleric's freedom was hard to swallow, but Israel had no choice. After the fiasco in Jordan, Mr. Halevy was named director of Mossad, a position he held until 2002. Two years later, Sheikh Yassin was killed by an Israeli air strike.

Mr. Halevy has in recent years urged Israel to negotiate with Hamas. He says that "Hamas can be crushed," but he believes that "the price of crushing Hamas is a price that Israel would prefer not to pay." When Israel's authoritarian secular neighbor, Syria, launched a campaign to wipe out Muslim Brotherhood militants in the early 1980s it killed more than 20,000 people, many of them civilians.

In its recent war in Gaza, Israel didn't set the destruction of Hamas as its goal. It limited its stated objectives to halting the Islamists' rocket fire and battering their overall military capacity. At the start of the Israeli operation in December, Defense Minister Ehud Barak told parliament that the goal was "to deal Hamas a severe blow, a blow that will cause it to stop its hostile actions from Gaza at Israeli citizens and soldiers."

Walking back to his house from the rubble of his neighbor's home, Mr. Cohen, the former religious affairs official in Gaza, curses Hamas and also what he sees as missteps that allowed Islamists to put down deep roots in Gaza.

He recalls a 1970s meeting with a traditional Islamic cleric who wanted Israel to stop cooperating with the Muslim Brotherhood followers of Sheikh Yassin: "He told me: 'You are going to have big regrets in 20 or 30 years.' He was right."

A History of Conflict

A brief look at the relationships between Israel, Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

1974: Arab states declare the Palestine Liberation Organization, which Israel views as a terrorist organization, the "sole legitimate representative" of the Palestinian people. Its main component is the mostly secular Fatah faction.



1980-84: Violent clashes break out in Gaza, and later the West Bank, between Palestinian Islamists and supporters of the PLO.

1988-89: Israeli officials continue contacts with Gaza Islamists while cracking down hard on PLO militants. Hamas then launches first terror attacks against Israel.

2005: Israel dismantles settlements in Gaza and pulls out troops, leaving the area to the Palestinian Authority, dominated by Fatah and other mostly secular groups.

2006: Hamas trounces Fatah in elections backed by Washington. Israel and the U.S. refuse to accept any Hamas role in the Palestinian government until the group renounces violence and accepts other conditions. Hamas refuses. Israel blockades Gaza.



1970s

1980s

1990s

2000s

1976-79: Israel allows Islamist activists from the Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza to set up a university and a network of social services, and registers the Islamists' umbrella organization, Mujama al-Islamiya.



1987: A traffic accident in Gaza involving Palestinians and an Israeli ignites protests that develop into an uprising known as the first Intifada. Mujama leaders form a new organization, the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas.



1993: PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sign a peace accord. Hamas denounces the PLO and vows to continue "resistance."



December 2008: Israel sends warplanes and then troops into Gaza after cease-fire with Hamas ends, and Hamas fires rockets at Israel.

Getty Images (1974, 1993, 2008); Associated Press (3)

IMAGE: https://si.wsj.net/public/resources/images/OB-CZ951_confli_NS_20090123221236.jpg

^ 12. Olmert: PM strengthening Hamas to deceive Israelis

Netanyahu says he is ready to return to negotiations with PA "today"; Liberman, Barak at odds over Abbas's call for talks. By **JPOST.COM STAFF** Nov 4, 2012 18:30

<http://www.jpost.com/Diplomacy-and-Politics/Olmert-PM-strengthening-Hamas-to-deceive-Israelis>



EHUD OLMERT 370. (Photo credit: **MARC ISRAEL SELLEM/The Jerusalem Post**)

Former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Sunday accused Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of deliberately strengthening Hamas in order to convince the Israeli public that there is no Palestinian partner for peace. Olmert's comments came after PA President Mahmoud Abbas made a rare verbal concession to Israel, saying he had no permanent claim on the town from which he left as a child during the War of Independence in 1948, in an [interview with Channel 2](#).

"The government has taken steps to strengthen Hamas and to weaken the PA, headed by Mahmoud Abbas, an organization which espouses non-violence and negotiations for peace," Olmert said. "This kind of policy towards the only possible peace partner between us and the Palestinians is irresponsible and harms the vital interests of the State of Israel. The interviews that Abbas gave in recent days are proof to the Israeli public that we have somebody to talk to in order to end this bloody conflict between our nations, which has lasted far too long."

^ Netanyahu ready to resume negotiations 'today'

2:23 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nbeXBCXSyY>

Prime minister responds to Abbas's call for negotiations in Channel 2 interview; Liberman, Barak at odds over Abbas's intentions as both PA and Hamas step back his comments. **4 comments**

Olmert's comments drew a swift and sharp condemnation by Education Minister Gideon Sa'ar, who called the accusation "outrageous" and labeled Olmert an advocate of the Palestinian Authority.

SA'AR CONDEMNED The Former Prime Minister for blaming the Israeli government for the impasse in negotiations with the Palestinians, highlighting that Olmert had "not leveled even one word of criticism at the Palestinian Authority despite [Mahmoud Abbas'] deliberate refusal for four years to negotiate with Israel."

Sa'ar also accused Olmert of complicating matters for Israel by offering Abbas far-reaching concessions during his tenure as prime minister, including agreeing to an Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders and the partition of Jerusalem as part of a peace deal, which Abbas now considers a baseline for negotiations.

Likud MK Danny Danon likewise denounced Olmert, saying the former prime minister had no right to criticize the government given that he was recently convicted of breach of trust and in light of his past leadership failures.

Danon said that "if Olmert wants to protect the security of Israel then he should remain outside the political system so as not to cause any more damage."

Danon also described Olmert's attack on Netanyahu as a desperate attempt to generate headlines.

Netanyahu says he is ready for talks

Earlier Sunday, Netanyahu said he is ready to return to negotiations with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas as early as today, Army Radio reported

Speaking at the opening of Sunday's cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said if Abbas intends to advance the peace process, he should come back to the negotiation table, adding that it was the only place Abbas's true intentions can be discerned.

Netanyahu accused Abbas of going back on his statement discounting the Palestinian right of return over the weekend, saying "it only proves the importance of direct negotiations with no preconditions."

Foreign Minister Avigdor Liberman accused Abbas of interfering with Israel elections, the latest in a series of attacks he has launched against Abbas in recent months. In an Sunday interview with Army Radio, Liberman asserted that "Abbas is interfering, to the benefit of the Left, [Labor leader] Shelly Yacimovich and [Zehava Gal-On], who represent Palestinian interests in Israel."

DEFENSE MINISTER EHUD BARAK, however, said Abbas was not simply grandstanding. "In private conversations, too, [Abbas] expresses willingness to concede the right of return," Barak told Army Radio Sunday.

Barak defended Abbas, saying the Palestinian president "is not joining 'Likud Beytenu' and not Zionist youth movements, because he is the Palestinian leader, but you can't say we have no partner with [Abbas]."

On Saturday, Abbas adviser Nabil Abu Rudaineh effectively confirmed Liberman's accusations preemptively, saying the interview on Israeli television was [aimed at "affecting Israeli public opinion."](#) He was also quick to assert that the PA president said nothing that negates the right of return following the Channel 2 interview.

"The position of the Palestinian leadership remains fixed," Rudaineh said. "The refugees and the right of return are among the final-status issues that will be negotiated with the Israelis. We are committed to the Palestinian principles as endorsed by the Palestine National Council [the PLO's parliament-in-exile]."

Hamas, Fatah remain at odds on negotiations

Home Front Defense Minister Avi Dichter noted that divisions between the Palestinian factions undermine Abbas's position.

Although Abbas represents "the only partner we can talk to" as the leader of the PA, Dichter told Israel Radio on Sunday, he has limited sway with the Hamas leadership that took over Gaza in a 2007 coup, and has not visited Gaza in five years and is at odds .

"We must be very careful about negotiating with Abu Mazen about Judea and Samaria, and making Gaza a separate issue" that Israel will have to deal with later, Dichter said. "Israel cannot turn its policy in the region into 'three states for two nations.'"

"I think that you have to look at Abu Mazen's [Abbas's] interviews in both English and Arabic," he continued, noting that Abbas told an Egyptian media outlet that the Palestinian right of return to Israel was sacred, despite foregoing that claim in the English Channel 2 interview.

Senior Hamas official Mahmoud Zahar told Army Radio Sunday morning Abbas is afraid he would be killed if he insists on a third Intifada. Abbas said in the Channel 2 interview that there would not be another violent intifada as long as he is in office.

REACTING TO THE INTERVIEW, Zahar said, Abbas was scared of being murdered "like they poisoned [former PLO chairman Yasser] Arafat to death."

"With these words, Abu Mazen [Abbas] is actually protecting his life - but at the same time, he is taking a gamble on his good reputation," Zahar added.

Zahar said that the radio was not the place to offer peace proposals and maintained that Abbas had no right to say what he did. "All Palestinians, everywhere, are against him," he contended.

Electoral interference?

Though Liberman doled out accusations of electoral interference, he has also been on the receiving end of such [accusations](#).

As part of a campaign against the PA president, Liberman in September called Abbas a "liar, coward and wimp" who would quit if he had any modicum of self-respect.

Liberman at the time said Abbas and his government were living "on borrowed time" and that it would be impossible to save them just as it was impossible to save other "rotten regimes" in the Arab world.

Former foreign minister [Tzipi Livni said Sunday](#) that there are some members of the current government who do not want to listen to the Palestinians because it would undermine their assertion that there is no partner for peace.

Speaking with Army Radio, Livni recalled her days of conducting negotiations with Abbas as Israel's foreign minister. "I was happy to hear him say the same things in public that we heard in [private]," she said.

Livni, who has been rumored to be considering a return to politics in the upcoming elections, said she believes reaching an agreement with the Palestinians is possible.

The belief in Israel that the Palestinian leadership refused to sign numerous generous offers from Israel is not based on the accounts of those who sat in negotiations that took place, she said. "The negotiations ended before we reached a point that something could be signed."

Tags: [Avigdor Liberman](#) [two state solution](#) [PLO leader calls for 'return' of W. Bank to Jordan](#) [Erekat warns of US 'retaliation' after UN bid](#)

^ 13. It Turns Out Hamas May Not Have Kidnapped and Killed the 3 Israeli Teens After All [Updated]

By [KATIE ZAVADSKI](#)

<http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2014/07/hamas-didnt-kidnap-the-israeli-teens-after-all.html>



Photo: **MOHAMED FARAG**/*Anadolu Agency/Getty Images*

When the bodies of three Israeli teenagers, kidnapped in the West Bank, were found late last month, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu did not mince words.

[“Hamas is responsible, and Hamas will pay,”](#) he said, initiating a campaign that eventually escalated into the present conflict in the region.

But now, Israeli officials admit the kidnappings were not Hamas’s handiwork after all.

(Update: The comments from the Israeli spokesperson in question indicate that the group thought to be responsible, a “lone cell,” may not have been under direct orders from Hamas’s leadership, but was loosely affiliated with the group. The headline of this post has been changed to reflect that discrepancy. See below for more.)

BuzzFeed reporter Sheera Frenkel was among the first to suggest that it was unlikely that Hamas was behind the deaths of Gilad Shaar, Naftali Frenkel, and Eyal Yifrach. Citing Palestinian sources and experts in the field, Frenkel reported that kidnapping three Israeli teens would be a [foolish move for Hamas](#). International experts told her it was likely the work of a local group, acting without concern for the repercussions:

[Gershon Baskin] pointed out that Hamas has earlier this month signed an agreement to form a unity government with Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, bridging, for the first time in seven years, the Palestinian leadership in the West Bank and Gaza.

“They will lose their reconciliation agreement with Abbas if they do take responsibility for [the kidnappings],” Baskin added.

Today, she may have been proven right:

[Sheera Frenkel ✓ @sheeraf](#) *After Israel's top leadership exhaustively blamed Hamas for kidnap of 3 teens, they've now admitted killers were acting as "lone cell."*

[9:40 AM - Jul 25, 2014 490 2,497 people are talking about this](#)

[Sheera Frenkel ✓ @sheeraf](#) *Order of events: 3 teens kidnapped->100s of Palestns in WB arrested->revenge attacks on Palestinians->violence along Gaza/Israel border->war*

[9:42 AM - Jul 25, 2014 100 538 people are talking about this](#)

Repeated inconsistencies in Israeli descriptions of the situation have sparked debate over whether Israel wanted to provoke Hamas into a confrontation. Israeli intelligence is also said to have known that the boys were dead shortly after they disappeared, but to have maintained public optimism about their safe return to [beef up support from the Jewish diaspora](#). Writing for Al Jazeera, Musa al-Gharbi argued that Israel was [deliberately provoking Hamas](#):

All the illegal and immoral actions related to Operation Brother's Keeper were justified under the premise of finding and saving the missing teens whom the Israeli government knew to be dead — cynically exploiting the tragedy to whip up public outcry in order to provoke and then confront Hamas. This pattern of deception continues under the ongoing military offensive in Gaza. For example, last week in collaboration with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi and Abbas, in its efforts to alienate Hamas, Israel announced a [bad-faith cease-fire proposal](#), which Hamas was not consulted on and never agreed to but whose violation supposedly justified Israel's expansion and intensification of the military campaign into Gaza.

Despite continued negotiations, the violence shows no signs of letting up, and after Thursday night's [massive protests in the West Bank](#), there is still no ceasefire agreement. On Friday, it became clear that U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's [attempts to broker a seven-day truce](#) were rejected by Israeli officials. Instead, Israel will apparently [widen its ground operation in the Gaza Strip](#), despite international outcry about the civilian death toll. According to unnamed officials, the proposed truce was too generous to Hamas's demands.

Hamas, meanwhile, still hasn't [weighed in on the agreement](#), whose details are being kept secret, but continued to launch rockets into Israel. International peace talks are set to resume in France this weekend, and we're keeping our fingers crossed.

Updated, July 26, 11:44 a.m.: This claim was also reported by BBC's Jon Donnison, who spoke to Israel Police Foreign Press Spokesman Micky Rosenfeld:



[Jon Donnison ✓ @jondonnisonbbc](#)

Israeli police Mickey Rosenfeld tells me men who killed 3 Israeli teens def lone cell, hamas affiliated but not operating under leadership 1/2

[6:28 AM - Jul 25, 2014 283 1,289 people are talking about this](#)

[Jon Donnison ✓ @jondonnisonbbc](#)

Seems to contradict the line from Netanyahu government. 2/2

[6:29 AM - Jul 25, 2014 75 434 people are talking about this](#)

[Jon Donnison ✓ @jondonnisonbbc](#)

Israeli police spokes Mickey Rosenfeld also said if kidnapping had been ordered by Hamas leadership, they'd have known about it in advance.

[10:56 AM - Jul 25, 2014 92 451 people are talking about this](#)

[Jon Donnison ✓ @jondonnisonbbc](#)

Mickey Rosenfeld said lone cells much harder to track. Said they would find whoever was now protecting the two suspects.

[10:57 AM - Jul 25, 2014 21 113 people are talking about this](#)

Update, July 28, 9:21 a.m.: Rosenfeld, the Israeli spokesperson, is seeking to clarify that while the lone cell did not receive direct orders from Hamas, it was still affiliated. “The kidnapping and murder of the teens was carried out by Hamas terrorists from the Hebron area,” [he claimed in comments to The Daily Beast](#). “The security organizations are continuing to search for the murderers.”

But Donnison, the BBC journalist, is not backtracking from his earlier reporting:

[Jon Donnison ✓ @jondonnisonbbc](#)

For those asking, I stick by 100% tweets regarding comments made to me by Israeli police spokes Mickey Rosenfeld. He said it. Period. 1/2

[1:14 PM - Jul 26, 2014 73 146 people are talking about this](#)

[Jon Donnison ✓ @jondonnisonbbc](#)

And what's more I suspect what he said is common knowledge in Israeli Intelligence circles. 2/2 [1:14 PM - Jul 26, 2014 46 103 people are talking about this](#)

Related Stories: [10,000 Palestinians Protest Gaza Operation in ‘Third Intifada’](#)



Sources: [Reuters](#) [Buzzfeed](#)

Tags: [MIDDLE EAST PEACE](#) [ISRAEL](#) [GAZA STRIP](#)

^ 14. Egypt destroys 1,370 Gaza smuggling tunnels

Announcement from the military comes as ties between Cairo and Hamas deteriorate

By [AFP](#) 12 March 2014, 5:31 pm [1](#) comments 327 shares

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/egypt-destroys-1370-gaza-smuggling-tunnels/>



Illustrative photo of Palestinian workers inside a smuggling tunnel in the southern Gaza Strip

*(Photo credit: **ABED RAHIM KHATIB** / Flash90)*

Egypt's military said Wednesday it has destroyed 1,370 smuggling tunnels under its border with the Gaza Strip, as Cairo's ties remain sour with the Hamas movement that rules the Palestinian enclave.

Ties took a turn for the worse after the military's July ouster of Islamist president Mohamed Morsi, who belongs to the Muslim Brotherhood, with which Hamas is affiliated.

The statement did not say when the tunnels were destroyed, but the military has poured troops into the adjacent Sinai Peninsula to counter militancy that has grown since July.

The tunnels, under the town of Rafah, are used to transfer food, fuel and consumer products into the densely populated Palestinian enclave.

But Hamas and other militant groups reportedly use their own more secret tunnels to bring in arms and money.

Gaza has been under blockade since 2006, after militants captured an Israeli soldier in a cross-border raid.

Egypt accuses Hamas of having colluded with the Brotherhood in carrying out "terror attacks" on its territory in the past few years.

DOZENS OF ALLEGED HAMAS MILITANTS have been named among scores of defendants, including Morsi, in trials for organizing jailbreaks and attacking police stations during the 2011 revolt that toppled strongman Hosni Mubarak.

In a separate espionage trial, Morsi and 35 other defendants are accused of conspiring with foreign powers, including Sunni Muslim Hamas and Shiite Iran, to destabilize Egypt.

Hamas has denied Egyptian accusations that it is involved in fighting in the restive Sinai Peninsula.

On March 4, an Egyptian court banned Hamas from operating in Egypt and ordered the seizure of its assets there.

The Brotherhood has also been designated as a “terrorist organisation” by Egypt’s military-installed authorities.

1 Comment [Robert Levin](#)

Problem: effort to build 1500 tunnels, no effort to provide clean water. Solution: launch more rockets. See, when you think of it like that it all makes perfect sense

READ MORE: [Israel & the Region](#) [Israel Inside](#) [Egypt-Hamas relations](#) [smuggling tunnels](#) [Mohammed Morsi](#) [Muslim Brotherhood](#) [Gaza Strip](#)

^ 15. Gaza's only power plant destroyed in Israel's most intense air strike yet

At least 100 Palestinians killed and media outlets, mosque and refugee camp all targeted as calls for ceasefire dismissed

By: [HARRIET SHERWOOD](#) in Jerusalem [@harrietsherwood](#) *This article is 3 years old*

Wed 30 Jul 2014 03.58 BST First published on Wed 30 Jul 2014 03.58 BST

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/jul/29/gaza-power-plant-destroyed-israeli-airstrike-100-palestinians-dead>



A Palestinian firefighter tries to put out a fire at Gaza's main power plant, which witnesses say was hit by Israeli shelling.

*Photograph: **MOHAMMED SALEM**/Reuters*

Flames and clouds of black smoke billowed over Gaza's only power plant on after it was destroyed during the most relentless and

widespread Israeli bombardment of the current conflict. At least 100 people were killed on Tuesday, according to [Gaza](#) health officials.

"The power plant is finished," said its director, Mohammed al-Sharif, signalling a new crisis for Gaza's 1.8 million people, who were already enduring power cuts of more than 20 hours a day.

Amnesty International said the crippling of the power station amounted to "collective punishment of Palestinians". The strike on the plant will worsen already severe problems with Gaza's water supply, sewage treatment and power supplies to medical facilities.

"We need at least one year to repair the power plant, the turbines, the fuel tanks and the control room," said Fathi Sheik Khalil of the Gaza energy authority. "Everything was burned." He said crew members who had been trapped by the fire for several hours were evacuated.

GAZA CITY OFFICIALS SAID damage to the power station could paralyse pumps and urged residents to ration water.

Israeli fire killed another 21 Palestinians early on Wednesday, Gaza officials said. Tank shells pounding houses in eastern Jebalya in the northern Gaza Strip killed 13 people and wounded many others, health ministry spokesman Ashraf Al-Qidra said, with a medic and an infant among the dead.

Eight people, including five members of the same family in Jebalya, were killed in other strikes across the Gaza Strip.

Gaza hospital officials put the total number of Palestinians killed in the conflict at 1,224, most of them civilians. The UN said 182,000 people – around 10% of Gaza's population – had sought shelter in its premises.

On the Israeli side 53 soldiers and three civilians have been killed since the start of the offensive on 8 July.

The UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) said it had found a cache of rockets at one of its schools in Gaza and deplored those who had put them there for placing civilians in harm's way. "This is yet another flagrant violation of the neutrality of our premises. We call on all the warring parties to respect the inviolability of UN property," said a spokesman. [Israel](#) has targeted some UNRWA sites in its current offensive and has in the past said the agency's property was being used for hostile purposes.

Israel intensified its military offensive after the Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, warned of a [protracted campaign to achieve his goals in Gaza](#), launching strikes from air, land and sea.

Hopes of a new ceasefire in the three-week-old Gaza war rose momentarily on Tuesday afternoon when Yasser Abed Rabbo, a veteran Palestinian official, announced a 24-hour pause in fighting, saying he was speaking on behalf of [Hamas](#) and Islamic Jihad, the two main militant organisations.

But [both parties to the conflict swiftly dismissed this](#).

Hamas's spokesman in Gaza, Sami Abu Zuhri, said the militant organisation in Gaza had not approved the announcement, and Israeli government spokesman Mark Regev said the proposal was "not serious". The rebuff from Hamas in Gaza indicated the gulf between it and the West Bank-based Palestinian leadership.

US SECRETARY OF STATE [JOHN KERRY](#) said he was in discussions with Netanyahu to find an end to the fighting in Gaza. The pair had spoken "two, three, four times a day in recent days", Kerry told reporters in Washington.

They were working "very carefully and thoughtfully" on ways to "prevent this spiralling downwards", he added.

Kerry reiterated US support for Israel's right to self-defence, "to live free from rockets and tunnels". The secretary of state has come [under sustained attack in Israel](#) over what was perceived as undue sympathy for Hamas's position in ceasefire negotiations in the Middle East and Paris last week.

During a night and day of heavy pounding, Israeli forces targeted key symbolic and strategic targets, including the home of the Hamas leader in Gaza, Ismail Haniyeh, and an office building housing Hamas-controlled broadcast outlets.

In the most intense bombardment of the 22-day conflict, Gaza resident Mohamed al-Dalo said: "Missiles were falling like rain." He told the AFP news agency: "We all left our homes, some running in one direction, some in another; nobody knew which way to go."

Haniyeh's home was hit by a missile shortly before dawn, causing damage but no injuries. Most of Hamas's senior leaders are presumed to be residing in underground bunkers for the duration of the war.

"My house is not dearer than any of the houses of our people," Haniyeh was quoted as saying on a Hamas website. "The destruction of stones will not break our will and we will continue our resistance until we gain freedom."

Al-Aqsa TV and radio were also targeted. The TV station kept broadcasting, but the radio station went off air. The Israeli military said the stations were used to "transmit orders and messages to Hamas operatives and to instruct Gaza residents to ignore IDF warnings regarding upcoming military activity in specific areas".

Eleven people were killed in a strike on a [house in Bureij refugee camp in Gaza City](#). A central mosque and government buildings were also targeted.

As sirens warning of rocket fire sounded across southern Israel for much of the day, the IDF said it had killed five militants emerging from a tunnel in the south of Gaza. It also disclosed that five Israeli soldiers had died in a gun battle on Monday with militants who

crossed into Israel via a tunnel near the community of Nahal Oz, close to the border with the Gaza Strip.

DAVID CAMERON, THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, added his weight to growing international calls for an "unconditional, immediate humanitarian ceasefire".

"What we're seeing is absolutely heartbreaking in terms of the loss of life, and the pictures that everyone has seen on their television screen are really heart-rending and everyone wants to see this stopped, so an immediate unconditional ceasefire, that is what is required," he said. Blaming Hamas for triggering the current conflict, he added: "Hamas must stop attacking Israel with rocket attacks. That is how this started. It's completely unjustified and they need to stop as part of the ceasefire."

The IDF continued to categorically deny that its forces were responsible for hits on Shati refugee camp and the Shifa hospital on Monday. Eight children and two adults were killed at Shati while playing in a park.

The military released an aerial photograph it said showed rockets fired by militants had fallen short. In a statement it said that red lines drawn over the photograph indicated "the paths of the four terrorist rockets, as detected by IDF radars and sensors, that were launched in the attacks that resulted in one hitting the al-Shifa hospital and one hitting the Shati refugee camp. Of the other two rockets, one landed at sea, and the other was intercepted on its way to the city of Ashkelon."

Witnesses in Gaza said missiles had been fired from Israeli F-16s. A spokesman for the interior ministry in Gaza, Iyad al-Buzm, said explosives experts from Gaza police had examined "the targeted places and the remnants of shells there" as well as the wounds on the bodies, determining them to be inflicted by an Israeli strike.

^ 16. Schools for Jews and Arabs: Separate but Definitely Not Equal

<https://www.haaretz.com/opinion/schools-for-jews-and-arabs-separate-but-definitely-not-equal-1.5186983>

In one clear step, Israel's Education Minister has demonstrated that the separate Jewish and Muslim school systems have nothing to do with preserving an autonomous space for Jewish and for Arab culture, but rather - plain segregation.

By: [RIVKA COHEN](#) Jun 25, 2012 12:38 PM

IN ONE CLEAR STEP, Israel's Education Minister has demonstrated that the separate Jewish and Muslim school systems have nothing to do with preserving an autonomous space for Jewish and for Arab culture, but rather - plain segregation.

In the United States, the infamous phrase "separate but equal" evokes images of racially segregated drinking fountains, restaurants, and, most notably, schools. The phrase, which originated in a U.S. Supreme Court case back in 1896, was eventually superseded by another: Separate is inherently unequal, a paraphrase from the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Brown v. Board* in 1954. The exact wording, that Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal, made aliyah in 2009, when the Israeli Supreme Court explicitly quoted it in a decision against ethnic segregation in a private religious school.

But until today this ruling has still to be enforced across the whole spectrum of the Israeli educational system, particularly in terms of the unequal separation of Arab and Jewish students in Israeli schools. This need has become even more urgent following this week's insensitive declaration by the Ministry of Education that students in the Arab educational sector will be required to study [Menachem Begin and David Ben Gurion](#) in the same way as their Jewish counterparts.

First, some background to the case in Israel that triggered the Court's co-option of the judgment "separate is unequal". According to Israel's Student Rights Law, educational facilities must not be segregated on ethnic or political grounds. In the case in question, *Noar KeHalacha v. Ministry of Education*, a group of Sephardi families [protested the separation of their daughters from their Ashkenazi peers](#) in two different academic tracks.

However the High Court found that that the separation was not purely on an ethnic basis – which would have been clearly illegal.

INSTEAD, THE COURT RULED that a two-track educational system was based on religious criteria – and judged this to be illegal, even though the law doesn't explicitly prohibit discrimination on grounds of religion. Thus a ground-breaking precedent was born. Yet separation based on religious criteria is a founding principle of Israel's education system, not least in the separation of Arab and Jewish students in both elementary and secondary schools.

Justice Melcer, who sat in the 2009 discrimination case, cited a comment by MK Silvan Shalom that was made when the Knesset's passed the Student Rights Law: If a Jewish or an Arab child wishes to be admitted to an Orthodox Jewish school or a religious Arab school, or in a certain kind of Jewish school or a certain kind of Muslim school, [and is refused admission] the student cannot say that the reason for the refusal is discrimination.

What are the consequences of Shalom's overly broad remarks? They collapse the differences between what can be understood as a legitimate preference - filtering school choices according to a strong religious preference, such as a child seeking admission to an Orthodox Jewish school or a religious Arab school – and what should be seen as a far wider application of discriminatory entrance policies to an unspecified range of Jewish or Muslim schools.

These ambiguous criteria would allow Arab students to be excluded from any Jewish school considered to be a certain kind of Jewish school, potentially including public state secular schools in the Jewish sector. The same would apply to Jewish students seeking enrollment in Arab schools.

Israelis may well feel incredulity on reading that a Jewish student might seek enrollment in the Arab sector, or an Arab student in the secular Jewish one. This itself is a warning sign of the ease with which widespread segregation is accepted as natural in Israel's schools.

However, there is an even more serious concern. When originally spoken, MK Shalom's words were just words. But when Justice Melcer cited them, they became part of a High Court of Justice ruling, and they were presented as an example of appropriate segregation. The effect of the ruling was to say: segregating Sephardi and Ashkenazi children, even if it is partial and officially voluntary, is illegal, but the near-absolute segregation of Arab and Jewish students is legitimate.

ASIDE FROM LEGAL CONCERNS, a public educational system divided by religion has clear pitfalls. A [study](#) published on Israel's own government website Israel notes that Arab schools – more than any other educational sector – suffer from a severe shortage of classrooms and substandard classrooms," and have fewer counseling and psychological services than in Jewish schools. The study adds that Arab schools suffer a lower quality of teaching, of classroom conditions, and of academic results. Just imagine if Jewish students were also enrolled in these schools: Government funding for more classrooms and better teachers would surely appear, and quickly.

There can be only one justification for this segregation, bearing in mind the many disadvantages that Arab students suffer because of it. A separate school system that is so clearly unequal can only maintain a pretext of justice if it exists in order to [accommodate the different educational needs of Arab students](#) in a predominately Jewish society. Yet the Ministry of Education's recent mandate that Arab students must study Menachem Begin and David Ben Gurion cuts this justification down at the knees. The new requirement will force Arab schoolchildren to celebrate a Jewish-Israeli history that excludes them. The Ministry has, in one clear step, demonstrated that the separate school systems have nothing to do with preserving an autonomous space for Arab culture, but rather plain segregation.

With racism rearing its ugly head in verbal and physical attacks on African refugees, close on the heels of [racist vandalism](#) against one of Israel's few integrated schools, we need to pay attention. Forget the question of whether segregating different religious groups beginning in kindergarten is just, let alone legal, in the aftermath of Noar KeHalacha. With rising mistrust and hatred between Israeli Jews and non-Jews, can Israel afford a separate but equal policy that disregards cultural sensitivities and promotes greater tension and hate?

RIVKA COHEN graduated from Princeton University with a degree in Near Eastern Studies.

^ 4 Comments

Smara20:14 31.12.2017 naomi's comment- and in general

Nonsense, Naomi. Almost all Israeli Arabs speak Hebrew. Hardly any Israeli Jews speak Arabic. There is certainly discrimination in the allocation of funds. And educating non religious Jewish and Arab children would be a huge step forward. But to achieve that is not as simple as the article suggests, and the fear and hostility governing Jewish-Arab

relations in Israel is so overwhelming that such a step is unlikely to be taken until after Israel withdraws from the occupied territories and a permanent solution to the Arab refugee problem is found.

antoine20:15 31.12.2017 *true ---they live in different parts of Israel because of the exclusion of non-Jews from buying and leasing most of Israel's land base*

Jan20:15 31.12.2017 *As... they have done for centuries.*

naomi20:14 31.12.2017 *most arabs and jews live in different parts of israel and arabs do want to speak there own language in school*

David C20:01 31.12.2017 *a lot of truth to that but*

it's not the ONLY reason. there's also just the fact that historically in pre-state palestine, arabs lived in certain villages, and jews came and created their own villages. and people tend to stay put.

4naomi20:14 31.12.2017 *They speak different languages that is why!!!*

3Miron20:01 31.12.2017 *Why complain of violent behavior when Haaretz sing away halleluyia for suicide bombers in Syria?*

Haaretz is the prime supporter and advocate of terror and violence as an acceptable tool in a dialog with opponents. So, how can this press organ possibly complain about rejection? About tolerance? The focus of most of articles of this press organ of late is who humiliates whom, obsessively. If comes to it with murder. The violence is being advocated, worshiped as effective tool, craved, and critially looked at from the singular angle, was it good for "us"? In a way Haaretz has turned into a super - graphic - effect crew, except instead of orcs and elves the camera is following living subjects of their experiments. And than, after incessantly separating our world in "theirs' and "ours" they come back and scream back at everyone "why are we separated"? Well, it's Haaretz who is separated, for a moment. It wasn't Eli Yishai who setup today's educational system of Israel? Hello? He is an Torah learner under whose watch a few people of Arabic descent bought houses in Kiriath Shmona and a few Jewish people got apartments in Al Fahr. Haaretz response to both events was "lio kosher...". It was Yossi Sarid who setup today's school of Israel. He sits in the office next door to Rivkah. Couldn't the writer, struggling with English on these pages, ask Mr. Sarid what the heck he was doing as Minister of Education for the past 12 years? Oh no, that would be terrible. Haaretz will expose itself as a... hypocrite. Even more interesting would be to review Rivkah's vote on Tatiana

*Rabinovich right to ride the bus on Shabbas in front... See that vote roll? See that vote?
In the back of the bus, NOW!*

👤 👤 **2Skywalker20:01 31.12.2017** Naomi, why not let the Arabs decide where they want their children to go to school?

👤 👤 **1frank20:00 31.12.2017** seperate but equal Can't they all just learn in Afrikaans?

^ 17. Racists Are Rampaging Through Israel

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/gg88dj/israeli-racism-gaza-kleinfeld-511

Militarism and nationalism have always been part of the Israeli education system—embedded in history books, on maps on the walls, in cartoons of Palestinians on camels—but things seem to have gone further under Netanyahu's watch.

By: [PHILIP KLEINFELD](#) Aug 1 2014, 5:50am



Two girls with a sign that reads "Hating Arabs is not racism, it's values." (Photo from [The People of Israel Demand Vengeance/Facebook via](#))

In Israel, racism and extremism are exploding. It began shortly after the kidnapping of three Israeli boys—Naftali, Gilad and Eyal—in Gush Etzion, that led to the assault in Gaza which has seen over 1,000 killed. A Facebook page calling for the murder of Palestinians went viral. In one photo, a soldier posed broodingly with his gun, the word "vengeance" written on his chest. In another two teenage girls smiled happily with a banner that read: "Hating Arabs is not racism, it's values."

A few days later, at the boys' funeral in Modiin, Israeli Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu fanned the flames. "May God avenge their blood," he said to the gathered mourners. "Vengeance for the blood of a small child, Satan has not yet created," [he tweeted later](#).

Bibi got his wish. Over the weeks that followed, videos began to emerge almost daily of right-wing mobs roving across cities from Jerusalem to Beer Sheva, waving Israeli flags and screaming "Death to Arabs!"

Many ended in physical assaults. Last Thursday two Palestinian men were attacked on Jaffer Street in West Jerusalem as they delivered food to a grocery market. The following day two more Palestinians, Amir Shwiki and Samer Mahfouz, were [beaten](#) unconscious in the Eastern part of the city by a gang of 30 young Israelis wielding sticks and metal bars.

Pro-Israeli and Pro-Palestine demonstrators clash in Haifa

Nationalistic Israelis have also turned on Israelis who disagree with them. Photographs have even emerged of pro-war protestors dressed in t-shirts with "Good Night Left Side" prints, a slogan usually used by European neo-Nazis. Violence from these groups has reached unprecedented levels. Last week in Haifa, a city usually presented as a model of liberal co-existence, an anti-war rally was attacked by 700 people carrying weapons.

The worst is reserved for Palestinians. Four weeks ago in East Jerusalem, a group of Israeli men, acting in revenge, [poured](#) gasoline down the throat of Mohammed Abu Khdeir and burned him alive. For some his death, just like Jamal's, was an aberration, an act without precedent from some mad fringe of Israel's far-right. "What have we become?" an Israeli relative of mine asked that evening, shocked that somebody with "Jewish values" could commit such a crime.

But while the recent spate can be partly seen as a visceral reaction to the tragic killing of the three boys, this kind of violence is not really that new. Take the story of [Jamal Julani](#). He was walking along a street near Zion Square when a group of young Jewish Israelis, one as young as 13, kicked him in the head over and over. "A Jew is a good soul, an Arab is a son of a bitch," overheard one bystander.

There were hundreds standing in Zion Square that evening in September, but nobody, not even a duty officer on the scene chose to intervene. When paramedics did arrive, it took ten minutes of defibrillation and constant CPR to restore the dying boy's pulse. He had been so badly [beaten](#) that police at the scene had assumed he was already dead.

"Abu Khdeir's murderers are not 'Jewish extremists'" said an editorial in Haaretz, Israel's left-leaning newspaper. "They are the descendants and builders of a culture of hate and vengeance that is nurtured and fertilized by the guides of 'the Jewish state'."

"When you translate it into English you realize how horrific it is, but in the Israeli context there's nothing shocking about it."

Israel has never been the kind of free and open society it has tried so hard to project. Racism did not begin with the murder of Mohammed Abu Khdeir or the beating and attempted lynching of Jamal Julani. "Zionist doctrine has always pushed society in a very particular direction," the academic Marcelo Svirsky told me. But it is getting worse. "There is a phenomenon happening right now across Israeli cities that I have not seen before, having lived in Israel for 25 years."

One of the most striking aspects of this "phenomenon" is how young the people taking part appear to be. Those posting on social media, running amok in lynch mobs, and crashing leftist rallies with sticks, chains, and brass knuckles are, for the most part, young people—many in their mid-20s, some in their teens.

Three weeks ago the activist and journalist David Sheen [published](#) an article on Storify called "Terrifying Tweets of Pre-Army Israeli Teens" after he searched the word "Aravim," Hebrew for Arab, into Twitter. What he found was a harrowing amount of morbid bile presented in the form of grotesque selfies from teenage girls.

Other quotes included "I spit on you, you stinking Arabs," "From the bottom of my heart, I wish for Arabs to be torched," and "Arabs may you be paralyzed & die with great suffering!"

What is going on? For anyone familiar with Israeli politics, the answer should be obvious. In the past month alone the stream of racism coming from politicians and religious authorities has been relentless. Take Avigdor Lieberman, the Foreign Minister, who [called](#) on Israelis to boycott Palestinians

who don't support the war. Or take Ayelet Shaked, the Jewish Home party politician and member of the Knesset (Israel's national legislature) who recently called for the murder



of Palestinian mothers. “They should follow their sons,” she [said](#). “Nothing would be more just.”

“Those words the girls said are not in any way strange to the discourse in Israel,” Sheen told me. “When you translate it into English you realize how horrific it is, but in the Israeli context there’s nothing shocking about it.”

["Price Tag attacks"](#) on people taking action against settlers have grown in number without the police really trying to stop them. Vigilante patrols led by extreme organizations like the [state-funded Lehava](#) have cropped up across the entire country to stop Jews and Arabs from having romantic relationships. Perhaps the biggest victims of this fanaticism have been [refugees](#) from sub-Saharan Africa. Locked up in detainment centers, they’ve faced abuse from almost every part of the Israeli establishment. From the hundreds of Rabbis [banning](#) Jews from renting apartments to Africans, to politicians like Eli Yishai, the ultra-orthodox Interior Minister who in 2012 [said](#) “until I can deport them I’ll lock them up to make their lives miserable.”

“Both governments under Netanyahu have been responsible for inciting racism,” Svirskey said. “They’ve put in place a long list of anti-equality and anti-Palestinian legislation in all areas of life. That’s why it’s become normal in political discourse to express extreme ideas toward Palestinians. The obsession with a state only for Jews has brought Israeli society into a racist abyss.”

"Half of all Jewish Israeli high school students said Arab-Israelis should not receive the same set of rights as Jews."

For Israeli youth, things might have gotten marginally better in 2013 if a proposal by the left-wing Zionist party Meretz to have anti-racist education included in schools hadn’t been [voted down](#) by the Knesset. The bill had been submitted by the Arab-Israeli MK Issawi Freij after a [theme park](#) in Rishon Letzion admitted renting out its facilities on separate days to Jewish and Arab schools to “avoid conflict.”

Issawi’s fear that racism was growing in Israel’s schools echoed what others had been saying for years. In a recent study by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, half of all Jewish Israeli high school students said Arab-Israelis should not receive the same set of rights as Jews. Of those who identified as religious, half said the now familiar slogan “Death to Arabs” was legitimate.

In 2010 a group of concerned teachers sent a petition to the education ministry explaining precisely these fears. “We cannot remain silent in light of the increasing

presence within the walls of schoolhouses of expressions of racism,” they [said](#). “We see ourselves as educators who must issue a warning. The prevalence of racism and cruelty is growing among young people in Israel.”

According to Sheen many Israeli teachers, particularly those who teach civics, have become afraid to even broach the issue of human rights in the classroom. Earlier in the year Adam Verete, a teacher who dared to call the IDF an “immoral army,” was [hauled](#) before a tribunal and later fired after a pupil complained about his “extreme leftist” views. “They can’t even bring up the topic without inciting in their students rage and racism,” Sheen said.



A soldier poses with "Vengeance" written on his chest (Photo from [The People of Israel Demand Vengeance](#)/Facebook [via](#))

Of course, militarism and nationalism have always been part of the Israeli education system—embedded in history books, on maps on the walls, in cartoons of Palestinians on camel backs—but under Netanyahu’s watch, things seem to have gone further. The first major change of the former education minister Gideon Sa’ar, a man who described teachers as “lifelong draftees,” was to [enlarge](#) a program designed to inspire even more enthusiasm for the army.

“Service in the IDF is not only an obligation but a privilege and a social value,” Sa’ar said at the time. “The connection between the school system and the IDF will become stronger in the context of the program that I initiated.” The budget for civic education, a rare space for critical debate on Israel and its “democratic values,” was cut in favor of an orthodox Jewish studies curriculum. Heritage tours to Hebron were [introduced](#) as a way of increasing support for settlements and the idea of Greater Israel. And whatever passing reference to an alternative Palestinian narrative that remained in school textbooks was quickly removed.

“During the 1990s and early 2000s there was some kind of attempt to be more factual,” Nurit Peled-Elhanan, a professor of language and education at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem told me. “There was an effort to be more academic and scientific, to speak about Palestinians, even if the ideology was the same. Today it’s back to simplified stories and sheer indoctrination. It’s going backward.”

^ Israelis in Tel Aviv 26.7.2014: "There's no school tomorrow, there's no children left in Gaza! Oleh!"

1:50 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7qFACSfd_k

By: [TALI SHAPIRO](#) 298 401,744 views Published on Jul 28, 2014

Original video by user Hamakom:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7Jj_Oe7uQc



Israelis in Tel Aviv, on 26.7.2014, the 19th day of Israel's massacres in Gaza, cheer the genocide on: "There's no school tomorrow, there's no children left there [in Gaza]! Oleh!"

OCHA reports from the same date

^ Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza Emergency Situation Report (as of 27 July 2014, 1500 hrs) (8 pages, 493 KB)

https://www.ochaopt.org/sites/default/files/ocha_opt_sitrep_28_07_2014.pdf

Over a 1000 Palestinians have been bombed to death, over 200 of them children. Over 6200 have been injured, 2000 of them children. Over 215,000 displaced people- schools have turned into refugee camps. 130 schools have been bombed.

Comments are disabled for this video.

Right wing Israelis chanting joyfully about how there are "no children left" in Gaza

Though Israel remains a multicultural place, for the most part Palestinians and Israelis live deeply separate lives. Within the 1948 borders just five non-segregated schools are available for young children to meet and learn about one another. Within the occupied territories, physical barriers introduced after the Second Intifada mean contact is almost non-existent.

“There used to be so many more casual opportunities for Israelis and Palestinians to get to know each other,” Sheen said. “Now you have a whole generation—the terrifying-tweets cohort—that has never even known a Palestinian.”

Beyond the physical barriers the mental walls are perhaps even stronger. “I grew up without knowing any Palestinians,” Peled-Elhanan said. “All I had to do was cross to the other side of the city but the thought never occurred to me. This was the kind of education we got—that Palestinians, if they exist at all, exist as an obstacle.”

Israel likes to use its status as the region’s only European-style democracy to fudge criticism of its occupation and siege. Usually this works. There is, particularly in the Jewish diaspora, a monumental gap between how Israel is represented and what is actually happening. But in the present conflict, with over 1,000 dead in Gaza and youngsters pouring through Israel in violent mobs, these delusions may finally be coming undone.

For those who live in Israel and do not support the war or the right-wing government, it is becoming more difficult to voice an opinion, and some people are weighing their options. “Two nights ago there was a big protest in Tel Aviv,” Sheen said. “A long-time leftist was holding up a sign that said ‘flee while you can.’ In conversations I’ve had with hardcore activists, everyone has said they are preparing an escape plan. For people who have children or want to have children, this is no place to raise them.”

Keep up to date with developments in Gaza with the VICE News dispatches, [Rockets and Revenge](#)

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[Benjamin Netanyahu](#) [Vice Blog](#) [Avigdor Lieberman](#) [Racism in Israel](#)

[The People of Israel Demand Vengeance](#) [Ayelet Shaked](#) [Bibi Netanyahu](#)

^ 18. Palestinian children tortured, used as shields by Israel: U.N.

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-palestinian-israel-children/palestinian-children-tortured-used-as-shields-by-israel-u-n-idUSBRE95J0FR20130620>

By: [STEPHANIE NEBEHAY](#) 5 Min Read [World News](#) June 20, 2013 / 7:25 AM / 5 yrs ago

GENEVA (Reuters) - A United Nations human rights body accused Israeli forces on Thursday of mistreating Palestinian children, including by torturing those in custody and using others as human shields.

Palestinian children in the Gaza and the West Bank, captured by Israel in the 1967 war, are routinely denied registration of their birth and access to health care, decent schools and clean water, the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child said.



“Palestinian children arrested by (Israeli) military and police are systematically subject to degrading treatment, and often to acts of torture, are interrogated in Hebrew, a language they did not understand, and sign confessions in Hebrew in order to be released,” it said in a report.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry said it had responded to a report by the U.N. children’s agency UNICEF in March on ill-treatment of Palestinian minors and questioned whether the U.N. committee’s investigation covered new ground.

“If someone simply wants to magnify their political bias and political bashing of Israel not based on a new report, on work on the ground, but simply recycling old stuff, there is no importance in that,” spokesman Yigal Palmor said.

The report by the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child acknowledged Israel’s national security concerns and noted that children on both sides of the conflict continue to be killed and wounded, but that more casualties are Palestinian.

Most Palestinian children arrested are accused of having thrown stones, an offence which can carry a penalty of up to 20 years in prison, the committee said. Israeli soldiers had testified to the often arbitrary nature of the arrests, it said.

The watchdog's 18 independent experts examined Israel's record of compliance with a 1990 treaty as part of its regular review of a pact signed by all nations except Somalia and the United States. An Israeli delegation attended the session.

The U.N. committee regretted Israel's "persistent refusal" to respond to requests for information on children in the Palestinian territories and occupied Syrian Golan Heights since the last review in 2002.

"DISPROPORTIONATE"

"Hundreds of Palestinian children have been killed and thousands injured over the reporting period as a result of the state party military operations, especially in Gaza where the state party proceeded to (conduct) air and naval strikes on densely populated areas with a significant presence of children, thus disregarding the principles of proportionality and distinction," the report said.

Israel battled a Palestinian uprising during part of the 10-year period examined by the committee.

It withdrew its troops and settlers from the Gaza Strip in 2006, but still blockades the Hamas-run enclave, from where Palestinian militants have sometimes fired rockets into Israel.

During the 10-year period, an estimated 7,000 Palestinian children aged 12 to 17, but some as young as nine, had been arrested, interrogated and detained, the U.N. report said.

Many are brought in leg chains and shackles before military courts, while youths are held in solitary confinement, sometimes for months, the report said.

It voiced deep concern at the "continuous use of Palestinian children as human shields and informants", saying 14 such cases had been reported between January 2010 and March 2013 alone.

Israeli soldiers had used Palestinian children to enter potentially dangerous buildings before them and to stand in front of military vehicles to deter stone-throwing, it said.

"Almost all those using children as human shields and informants have remained unpunished and the soldiers convicted for having forced at gunpoint a nine-year-old

child to search bags suspected of containing explosives only received a suspended sentence of three months and were demoted,” it said.

ISRAEL’S “ILLEGAL LONG-STANDING OCCUPATION” OF PALESTINIAN territory and the Syrian Golan Heights, continued expansion of “unlawful” Jewish settlements, construction of the Wall into the West Bank, land confiscation and destruction of homes and livelihoods “constitute severe and continuous violations of the rights of Palestinian children and their families”, it said.

Israel disputes the international position that its settlements in the West Bank are illegal. It says the wall it built there during the uprising stopped Palestinian suicide bombers from reaching its cities.

In March, Palmor, the Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman, had said that officials from the ministry and the military had cooperated with UNICEF in its work on the report, with the goal of improving the treatment of Palestinian minors in custody.

“Israel will study the conclusions and will work to implement them through ongoing cooperation with UNICEF, whose work we value and respect,” he said, in response to the UNICEF report.

*Reporting by **STEPHANIE NEBEHAY** in Geneva and **ALLYN FISHER-ILAN** in Jerusalem;
Editing by **ALISTAIR LYON** Our Standards: [The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.](#)*

^ 19. Israel Is Holding Even More Palestinian Children in Solitary for Throwing Rocks

<https://news.vice.com/article/israel-is-holding-even-more-palestinian-children-in-solitary-for-throwing-rocks>

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By [OLIVIA BECKER](#)

Image: [Flickr](#)

May 15, 2014 | 5:35 pm



THE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN HELD IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, subjected to harsh interrogation and general mistreatment in [Israeli](#) prisons is increasing, according to a [report](#) released on Monday by an international non-governmental organization.

The report was released by Defense for Children International - Palestine (DCI-P), a monitoring organization that focuses on the treatment of children in areas of conflict, and details the treatment of Palestinian children between the ages of 12 and 17 in the occupied West Bank throughout last year.

The report found that solitary confinement was used as a form of interrogation and intimidation in nearly 22 percent of recorded cases — a 2 percent increase since 2012. The average length of solitary confinement was 10 days, with the longest period being 29 days.

In addition to solitary confinement, the report also found that more than 76.5 percent of Palestinian children detained in Israeli prisons experienced some form of physical violence, 74.5 experienced verbal abuse, and 98 percent were not informed of the reason for the arrest.

Between 500 and 700 Palestinian children are detained every year in the Israeli military prison system. Since 2000, approximately 8,000 Palestinian children have been arrested and prosecuted in Israeli military courts.

The overwhelming charge brought against Palestinian youths is stone throwing, which can lead to a sentence of up to 20 years in prison.

In 85 percent of these cases children are taken from their homes in the middle of the night during raids carried out by Israeli soldiers, according to the report, which states that the children are then blindfolded and forcibly brought to a detention center inside Israel, where they are interrogated by the Israel Security Agency, (or Shin Bet), the Israeli equivalent of the FBI.

Dual System of Laws

Although the systematic use of solitary confinement and physical abuse against minors is arguably an offense in and of itself, it is part of a much broader issue of the system of laws that govern the region.

Since the West Bank is an occupied territory, Israeli military law is the legal system that governs it. But this legal system solely applies to the Palestinian inhabitants of the West Bank, and not the 600,000 Israeli citizens that live there in illegal settlements.

“There is a dual legal system that exists in the West Bank,” George Bisharat, a professor of criminal procedure and law at University of California Hastings College of Law, told VICE News. “Israel citizens are subject to Israeli civil law, while all Palestinians, both adults and juveniles, are subject to Israeli military law.”

This legal framework is not only discriminatory, but actively in violation of international law. Arresting children in the West Bank and bringing them to Israel for interrogation and detainment violates [Article 76](#) of the Fourth Geneva Convention that forbids the transfer of detainees outside the occupied territory. Article 76 even specifies, “proper regard shall be paid to the special treatment due to minors.”

Up until 2009, Palestinian children were charged in the same courts as adults, another violation of international law. It was not until immense international criticism that Israel created separate courts for Palestinian minors.

Last July, Israeli soldiers arrested a five-year old Palestinian boy for stone throwing. The [video](#) of the arrest, captured by Israeli human rights group B'tselem, quickly spread and provoked outrage.

Although there are several detention centers inside the West Bank, the vast majority of detainees are usually brought to centers inside Israel to face a military trial. This trial is almost always the first time the detainee sees their family or a lawyer.

Nearly 100 Percent Conviction Rate

The overall conviction rate for Palestinians in Israeli military courts is [99.74](#) percent. Of the 853 youths charged with rock-throwing between 2005 and 2011, only one was [acquitted](#).

More than 650,000 Palestinians have been [arrested](#) by Israel since 1967, when its occupation of the Palestinian territories began, according to the Council for European Palestinian Relations (CEPR). Therefore, 40 percent of all Palestinian males have at one point been arrested by Israel.

About 20 percent of Palestinians arrested by Israel occurred during the first intifada, or uprising, between 1987 and 1992. During this period [120,000](#) Palestinians [were arrested](#) and detained in Israeli jails, making Palestinians one of the most imprisoned populations in the world.

A spokesperson for the Israeli military told VICE News that the reason for the high number of arrests amongst Palestinians is because the IDF faces extensive violence on a daily basis from Palestinian minors — violence that is encouraged by the surrounding culture and an institutionalized public support system.

"The IDF strongly rejects the claims that Palestinian minors are systematically mistreated in any way after being detained for involvement in violent acts or terror activity," said the statement from the IDF.

But the reason for the high number of arrests and convictions among Palestinian adults and youths is not necessarily due to a high rate of criminal activity or violence inherent in Palestinian youths or culture, Bisharat pointed out.

"One of the more troubling aspects of the mistreatment of juveniles is the way in which the Israeli legal system has been used as a tool of pressure to recruit collaborators," he said. "Children are one of the most vulnerable populations to be recruited."

DCI-P's report echoes this with regards to the use of solitary confinement.

"The use of solitary confinement by Israeli authorities does not appear to be related to any disciplinary, protective, or medical rationale or justification," the report states.

International Attention

This is not the first time Israel's treatment of Palestinian child prisoners has received attention and international condemnation.

In February 2013, UNICEF released a [report](#) detailing similar human rights abuses towards Palestinian children detainees. The report found that the ill-treatment of Palestinian children in the Israeli military detention system was “widespread, systematic, and institutionalized” and recommended that Israel implement a “series of practical safeguards that would improve the protection of children under military detention.”

This report follows another vocal denunciation of Israel's policies toward Palestinian children prisoners.

“Israel's use of solitary confinement against children flagrantly violates international human rights standards,” [said](#) Richard Falk, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, in 2012. “This pattern of abuse by Israel is grave. It is inhumane, cruel, degrading, and unlawful, and, most worryingly, it is likely to adversely affect the mental and physical health of underage detainees.”

[Thousands of Palestinians gathered in northern Israel for Israel's Independence Day to demand the right of return. Read more here.](#)

Topics: [solitary confinement](#), [military](#), [west bank](#), [middle east](#), [israel](#), [palestine](#), [children](#), [prison](#), [opinion and analysis](#), [international law](#)

^ 20. How Zionist Extremism Became British Spies' Biggest Enemy

In World War II's aftermath, MI5 turned to fight a new threat. It wasn't the Soviets. It was bombers from Jerusalem.

By [CALDER WALTON](#) | *AFP/Getty Images* January 1, 2014, 11:55 PM

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2014/01/01/how-zionist-extremism-became-british-spies-biggest-enemy/>



The years after World War II were not kind to Britain's intelligence services — especially MI5, its domestic counterintelligence and security agency. In the name of austerity, funding of the nation's intelligence services

was slashed, their emergency wartime powers removed, and their staff numbers drastically reduced. MI5's ranks were reduced from 350 officers at its height in 1943, to just a hundred in 1946. Its administrative records reveal that it was forced to start buying cheaper ink and paper, and its officers were instructed to type reports on both sides of paper to save money. And there were some serious discussions within the government, as there had been after World War I, about shutting MI5 down altogether. Unfortunately for MI5, in the post-war years it faced the worst possible combination of circumstances: reduced resources, but increased responsibilities. After the war Britain had more territories under its control than at any point in its history, and MI5 was responsible for security intelligence in all British territories.

But MI5's most urgent threat lay not in its diminished resources, nor from its new Soviet enemy. Recently declassified intelligence records reveal that at the end of the war the main priority for MI5 was the threat of terrorism emanating from the Middle East, specifically from the two main Zionist terrorist groups operating in the Mandate of Palestine, which had been placed under British control in 1921. They were called the Irgun Zevai Leumi ("National Military Organization," or the Irgun for short) and the Lehi (an acronym in Hebrew for "Freedom Fighters of Israel"), which the British also termed the "Stern Gang," after its founding leader, Avraham Stern. The Irgun and the Stern Gang believed that British policies in Palestine in the post-war years — blocking the creation of an independent Jewish state — legitimized the use of violence against British targets. MI5's involvement with counterterrorism, which preoccupies it down to the present day, arose in the immediate post-war years when it dealt with the Irgun and Stern Gang.

MI5'S INVOLVEMENT IN DEALING with Zionist terrorism offers a striking new interpretation of the history of the early Cold War. For the entire duration of the Cold War, the overwhelming priority for the intelligence services of Britain and other Western powers would lie with counterespionage, but as we can now see, in the crucial transition period from World War to Cold War, MI5 was instead primarily concerned with counterterrorism.

As World War II came to a close, MI5 received a stream of intelligence reports warning that the Irgun and the Stern Gang were not just planning violence in the Mandate of Palestine, but were also plotting to launch attacks inside Britain. In April 1945 an urgent cable from MI5's outfit in the Middle East, SIME, warned that Victory in Europe (VE-Day) would be a D-Day for Jewish terrorists in the Middle East. Then, in the spring and summer of 1946, coinciding with a sharp escalation of anti-British violence in Palestine, MI5 received apparently reliable reports from SIME that the Irgun and the Stern Gang were planning to send five terrorist "cells" to London, "to work on IRA lines." To use their own words, the terrorists intended to "beat the dog in his own kennel." The SIME reports were derived from the interrogation of captured Irgun and Stern Gang fighters, from local police agents in Palestine, and from liaisons with official Zionist political groups like the Jewish Agency. They stated that among the targets for assassination were Britain's foreign secretary, Ernest Bevin, who was regarded as the main obstacle to the establishment of a Jewish state in the Middle East, and the prime minister himself. MI5's new director-general, Sir Percy Sillitoe, was so alarmed that in August 1946 he personally briefed the prime minister on the situation, warning him that an assassination campaign in Britain had to be considered a real possibility, and that his own name was known to be on a Stern Gang hit list.

The Irgun and the Stern Gang's wartime track record ensured that MI5 took these warnings seriously. In November 1944 the Stern Gang had assassinated the British minister for the Middle East, Lord Moyne, while he was returning to his rented villa after a luncheon engagement in Cairo. Moyne's murder was followed by an escalation of violence in Palestine, with incidents against the British and Irgun and Stern Gang fighters being followed by bloody reprisals. In mid-June 1946, after the Irgun launched a wave of attacks, bombing five trains and 10 of the 11 bridges connecting Palestine to neighboring states, London's restraint finally broke. British forces conducted mass arrests across Palestine (codenamed Operation Agatha), culminating on June 29 — a day known as "Black Sabbath" because it was a Saturday — with the detention of more than 2,700 Zionist leaders and minor officials, as well as officers of the official Jewish defense force (Haganah) and its crack commandos (Palmach). None of the important Irgun or

Stern Gang leaders was caught in the dragnet, and its result was merely to goad them into even more violent counteractions. On July 22, the Irgun dealt a devastating blow, codenamed Operation Chick, to the heart of British rule in Palestine when it bombed the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, which housed the offices of British officialdom in the Mandate, as well as serving as the headquarters of the British Army in Palestine.

THE BOMBING WAS PLANNED by the leader of the Irgun, Menachem Begin, later to be the sixth prime minister of Israel and the joint winner of a Nobel Peace Prize. On the morning of July 22, six young Irgun members entered the hotel disguised as Arabs, carrying milk churns packed with 500 pounds of explosives. At 12:37 p.m. the bombs exploded, ripping the facade from the southwest corner of the building. This caused the collapse of several floors in the hotel, resulting in the deaths of 91 people. In terms of fatalities, the King David Hotel bombing was one of the worst terrorist atrocities inflicted on the British in the twentieth century. It was also a direct attack on British intelligence and counterterrorist efforts in Palestine: both MI5 and SIS — the Secret Intelligence Service, also known as MI6 — had stations in the hotel.

In the wake of the bombing, the Irgun and the Stern Gang launched a series of operations outside Palestine, just as the reports coming into MI5 had warned. At the end of October 1946 an Irgun cell operating in Italy bombed the British Embassy in Rome, and followed this in late 1946 and early 1947 with a series of sabotage attacks on British military transportation routes in occupied Germany. In March 1947 an Irgun operative left a bomb at the Colonial Club, near St Martin's Lane in the heart of London, which blew out the club's windows and doors, injuring several servicemen. The following month a female Irgun agent left an enormous bomb, consisting of 24 sticks of explosives, at the Colonial Office in London. The bomb failed to detonate because its timer broke. The head of Metropolitan Police Special Branch, Leonard Burt, estimated that if it had gone off it would have caused fatalities on a comparable scale to the King David Hotel bombing — but this time in the heart of Whitehall. At about the same time, several prominent British politicians and public figures connected with Palestine received death threats from the Stern Gang at their homes and offices. Finally, in June 1947, the Stern Gang launched a letter-bomb campaign in Britain, consisting of 21 bombs in total, which targeted every prominent member of the cabinet. The two waves of bombs were posted from an underground cell in Italy. Some of those in the first wave reached their targets, but they did not result in any casualties. Sir Stafford Cripps was only saved by the quick thinking of his secretary, who became suspicious of a package whose contents seemed to fizz, and placed it in a bucket of water. The deputy leader of

the Conservative Party, Sir Anthony Eden, carried a letter bomb around with him for a whole day in his briefcase, thinking it was a Whitehall circular that could wait till the evening to be read, and only realized what it was when he was warned by the police of the planned attack, on information provided by MI5.

The problem for MI5 in London, and local security forces in Palestine, was the extremely difficult nature of detecting and countering the Irgun and the Stern Gang. Both groups were organized vertically into cells, whose members were unknown to those in other cells, and whose extreme loyalty meant they were nearly impossible to penetrate. As one of MI5's leading officers dealing with Zionist terrorism, Alex Kellar noted in one MI5 report, "these terrorists are hard nuts to crack, and it is by no means easy to get them to talk." To complicate matters further, they also frequently made use of false identities and disguises. Female agents used hair dye or wigs to alter their appearance, while male agents were known to dress as women to elude security patrols.

MENACHEM BEGIN WAS KNOWN to travel under several aliases, and in the wake of the King David Hotel bombing he managed to elude the Palestine police and the bounty on his head by a series of clever disguises. In November 1946, the Palestine police produced alarming reports that he might be traveling incognito to Britain. Then, in early 1947, the alarm reached fever pitch when SIS sent a report to MI5 warning that Begin was thought to have undergone plastic surgery to alter his appearance, though as the report dryly concluded, "we have no description of the new face." The story soon leaked to the press, with the News Chronicle running the headline "Palestine Hunting a New Face," and sarcastically noting that although Begin might have changed his appearance, it was "likely that the flat feet and bad teeth have remained." As it turned out, the reports of Begin's plastic surgery were inaccurate: they were caused by confusion within the Palestine police (CID) when comparing photos of him. Begin had not actually left Palestine, but had grown a beard and disguised himself as a rabbi, evading the local police by concealing himself in a secret compartment in a friend's house in Jerusalem. When he agreed to give a secret interview to the author Arthur Koestler, he did so in a darkened room: Koestler vainly attempted to counter this by drawing heavily on his cigarettes, hoping to generate enough of a glow to catch a glimpse of Begin's appearance.

The situation was made all the more alarming for MI5 by the fact that members of the Irgun and the Stern Gang were known to have served in British forces during the war. With bitter irony, some of them had been trained by Britain's wartime sabotage agency, SOE, and its foreign intelligence services, SIS, while serving in the elite Palmach commando unit of the Jewish paramilitary organization, the Haganah. Just like the

former members of a number of other guerrilla groups the British armed during the war, such as communist forces in Malaya, the Irgun and the Stern Gang used their training in explosives and other paramilitary warfare against their former masters. Reports landing on MI5's desks throughout the summer of 1946 warned that Irgun and Stern Gang fighters were likely to be still serving within British military ranks, and were planning to use that as a cover to travel to Britain. MI5 was thus faced with the real possibility that terrorists could arrive in Britain wearing British military uniforms.

WITH THESE STARTLING REPORTS COMING into its London headquarters, MI5 devised a range of measures to prevent the extension of Zionist terrorism from Palestine to Britain. These have left few traces within records previously in the public domain, but as we can now see from MI5's own records, they were often extremely elaborate. The front line of its counterterrorist defense was what was termed "personnel security," which involved making background checks and scrutinizing visa applications for entry into Britain. On MI5's recommendation, all visa applications made by Jewish individuals from the Middle East were immediately telephoned through to MI5 for checking against its records before the applicants were permitted entry. MI5 also conducted a series of background vetting checks against its records on approximately 7,000 Jewish servicemen known to be in the British armed forces. This led to the identification of 40 individuals with suspected extremist sympathies, 25 of whom were discharged from the armed forces. MI5's security measures also involved heightened inspections at ports and other points of entry to the United Kingdom, to each of which an MI5-compiled "Index of Terrorists" was distributed, while on its advice Scotland Yard ratcheted up its protection of many leading political and public figures, and increased the number of officers detailed to guard Buckingham Palace. In October 1947 a senior Palestine police CID officer, Maj. John O'Sullivan, traveled to London and provided MI5 with microfilm photographs of terrorist suspects that were added to the index. Some of these mugshots are today held with unconcealed pride by former Irgun and Stern Gang members.

At the same time as these "personnel security" measures, which were designed to frustrate the entry of terrorists or terrorist sympathizers into Britain, MI5 embarked on the intensive surveillance of extremist Zionist political groups and individuals who were already there. Its assumption in doing this was that Irgun or Stern Gang operatives who succeeded in gaining entry to Britain would at some point make contact with these organizations or individuals, and therefore scrutinizing their activities could provide crucial leads to tracking them down. MI5 also assumed that agents would make contact with elements of the diaspora Jewish community in Britain. These assumptions would prove correct.

TO INVESTIGATE ZIONIST GROUPS and individuals in Britain, MI5 used the full repertoire of investigative techniques at its disposal. At the heart of its investigations were Home Office Warrants, which allowed for mail interception and telephone taps. In the post-war years MI5 imposed HOWs on all the main Zionist political bodies in Britain: the Jewish Agency for Palestine, the Jewish Legion, the Jewish-Arab Legion, the Zionist Federation of Jewish Labor and the United Zionist "Revisionist" Youth Organization. The last of these, in particular, caused a good deal of alarm within MI5. Some of its members addressed local Jewish clubs in North London with firebrand speeches against the British, fusing religion with politics. Another source of concern was the Jewish Struggle, a Zionist "Revisionist" publication based in London that frequently reprinted extremist Irgun propaganda from Palestine, typically denouncing the British as "Nazis" and advocating the use of violence. MI5's fear was that the Jewish Struggle would act as a recruiting platform for future terrorists in Britain. In December 1946 Alex Kellar and MI5's legal advisor, Bernard Hill, met the director of public prosecutions, and decided that, although there was insufficient evidence to prosecute, they would officially warn the editors of the Jewish Struggle that if they continued to publish Irgun material, their periodical would be shut down. The Jewish Struggle appears to have ceased publication soon after.

Another major source of MI5's counterterrorist intelligence in the post-war years were moderate Jewish and Zionist groups, both in Palestine and Britain. It forged close links with the body officially responsible for representing Zionist wishes to the British government, the Jewish Agency. In fact, MI5's policy toward the Jewish Agency was duplicitous: it cooperated with it, but at the same time kept it under close surveillance, running telephone and letter checks on its London headquarters even while it was liaising with its officers. The reason for this was that although MI5 trusted the agency's security officials, it suspected that its broader staff and membership might contain Irgun and Stern Gang supporters. The willingness of the agency to provide the British with intelligence on the Irgun and the Stern Gang reveals the extent to which those groups' activities were not supported by the majority of the Jewish population in Palestine — and this, it should be noted, has no parallel in contemporary Arab and Islamist terrorism. The bombing of the King David Hotel brought the coordinated Hebrew Resistance Movement, which had been forged between the Haganah, the Irgun and the Stern Gang, to an end. The Irgun's bombing operation was not approved by the Haganah, and after July 1946 it therefore began providing the British with intelligence on the Irgun and the Stern Gang, and helped British security personnel to hunt them down.

IN PALESTINE ITSELF, MI5's liaison officer stationed in Jerusalem in the post-war years, Henry Hunloke, a former Conservative MP, maintained close liaison with Jewish Agency officials, and acquired valuable intelligence from them, for example on suspected terrorists clandestinely entering or leaving Palestine. One of the agency officials from whom both MI5 and SIS (MI6) received counterterrorist intelligence was Reuven Zislani, who worked in the foreign intelligence department of the Jewish Agency. After 1948 Zislani changed his name to Reuven Shiloah and became the first head of Israel's foreign intelligence service, the Mossad.

In its efforts to establish contacts with Jewish Agency officials in Britain, MI5 used a series of go-betweens, or "cut-outs." Although the declassified documentation is presently incomplete, it seems likely that the Jewish Agency representative who met MI5's cut-out in London was Teddy Kollek, later a long-standing and celebrated mayor of Jerusalem, who during the war had become the deputy head of the Jewish Agency's intelligence department. Kollek is known to have provided MI5 with counterterrorist intelligence in Palestine: for example, in August 1945 he revealed the location of a secret Irgun training camp near Binyamina, and told an MI5 officer that "it would be a great idea to raid the place." The information he provided led to the arrest of 27 Irgun fighters, including the father of a later Israeli cabinet minister.

Some of the meetings held in March 1947 between the Jewish Agency official — probably Kollek — and MI5's cut-out, known in the declassified records by his codename, Scorpion, took place in London's finest restaurants. One was over a lavish meal of "oysters, duck and petit pots de creme au chocolat," while another featured gin and "rich red roast beef." The meetings did produce some intelligence on Irgun and Stern Gang fighters suspected of being about to leave Palestine, whose names MI5 placed on "watch lists" at British ports and airports. Despite the value of this information, one MI5 officer could not help noting that his mouth started to water when he read Scorpion's reports. After all, this was a time when, in Austerity Britain, bread rationing was in place.

As the terrorist threat intensified, MI5 became increasingly worried about the support shown by foreign groups, and even foreign powers, to the Irgun and the Stern Gang. It did not take much detective work for MI5 to discover that the two groups were receiving technical support from the IRA. One Jewish IRA leader, Robert Briscoe, who was also a member of the Irish parliament, a "Revisionist" Zionist and a future mayor of Dublin, was known by MI5 to support the Irgun, and in his memoirs he recalled that he assisted them in every way he could. Briscoe, who in his own words "would do business

with Hitler if it was in Ireland's good," made several trips to Britain before the war and met Irgun representatives there. He wrote in his memoirs that he elected himself "to a full Professorship with the Chair of Subversive Activities against England," and helped the Irgun to organize themselves on "IRA lines." In order to enhance the intelligence cooperation on IRA-Irgun-Stern Gang links, in October 1947 MI5 dispatched an officer and a Palestine police officer, Maj. J. O'Sullivan, temporarily in London to brief MI5 on Zionist terrorism, to Dublin. They liaised with the Irish CID, which kept Briscoe under surveillance and passed its findings on to MI5.

THE FORMER CHIEF RABBI OF IRELAND, ISAAC HERZOG, was also an open supporter of both Irish Republican and Zionist terrorism. After his emigration to Palestine in 1936, Herzog rose to arguably the most important position in the Jewish religious world, the chief rabbinate of Palestine. MI5's DSO in Palestine and the Palestine police both apparently kept a close watch on Rabbi Herzog's activities. In a manner that encapsulates the tensions that existed between moderates and extremists in both Palestine and Ireland, one of Herzog's sons, Chaim, disapproved of his father's collusion with terrorism. In sharp contrast to his father, Chaim Herzog served in British military intelligence on D-Day, went on to help establish the Israeli intelligence community, and eventually became president of Israel.

The stance taken by the U.S. government over Palestine, and in particular the position of Jewish-Americans, sometimes made it difficult for MI5 to obtain cooperation from U.S. authorities on issues of Zionist terrorism. The unambiguous support shown by the U.S. administration toward Zionist aspirations was one of the main factors which led in February 1947 to the British government's decision to hand the entire matter of Palestine over to the United Nations. More specifically, MI5 knew that some extremist Zionist groups operating in the United States, such as the "Bergson Group" and the "Hebrew Committee for the Liberation of Palestine," were raising funds and logistical support for the Irgun and the Stern Gang, with explosives and ammunition sometimes being sent in food packages to Britain. MI5 established a useful working relationship with American military (G-2) intelligence in occupied zones of Europe over clandestine Jewish migration to Palestine and Zionist terrorism, but in general the relationship between British and U.S. intelligence over Zionism was difficult. In March 1948 the high table of the British intelligence community, the Joint Intelligence Committee, noted its reports on Palestine would inevitably be controversial in Washington, and should only be given to the head of the CIA in person, and not left with him. It also advised that other British intelligence reports on Zionist matters should be censored before they were passed on to U.S. authorities. Meanwhile, Operation Gold, run by U.S. Navy

intelligence, was intercepting cable traffic with Jewish gun-runners, but this was not shared with Britain, nor was it acted upon by Washington.

ONE OF THE FEW WAYS IN WHICH MI5 was able to receive cooperation from the FBI on Zionist matters was by stressing many prominent Zionists' connections with communism and the Soviet Union. MI5 believed that several members of the Irgun and the Stern Gang had made their way to Palestine with the aid of Soviet intelligence. Menachem Begin and Nathan Friedman-Yellin, a leader of the Stern Gang, were both of Polish origin, and MI5 rightly suspected that the Soviets had helped them "escape" to Palestine during the war. Several Zionist leaders advocated cooperation with the Soviet Union, including the head of "security" for the Jewish Agency in Palestine, Moshe Sneh, who was aware of, if not actively involved, with planning the King David Hotel bombing. MI5's suspicions have been confirmed by subsequent research, which shows that on several occasions the Stern Gang appealed to Moscow for aid.

This makes the involvement of the notorious Soviet spy Kim Philby in SIS's investigations into Zionist terrorism all the more interesting. Philby — Moscow's longtime agent in the British intelligence services — was, at the time, the head of Section IX in SIS, Soviet counterintelligence. The position afforded him a legitimate interest in the Middle East — an interest that he probably also inherited from his father, the noted Arabist, Harry St John Philby. During the war St John Philby had unsuccessfully attempted to broker a deal for the partition of Palestine, the so-called Philby Plan. Kim Philby's manipulative agenda in SIS's Zionist investigations is difficult to determine. On July 9, 1946 SIS circulated a report throughout Whitehall advising that the Irgun was planning to take "murderous action" against the British Legation in Beirut. Almost certainly this was an inaccurate warning of the King David Hotel bombing, which occurred two weeks later. It was Philby who circulated the report. Philby had less motivation for sabotaging British investigations into Zionist terrorism, however, than he did in other fields. He undoubtedly would have secretly welcomed the terrorist campaign waged in the British Mandate of Palestine as undermining the British empire, but when he was working on Zionist affairs for SIS — and by extension for the KGB — immediately after the war, the Soviet Union's policy toward Palestine had not yet crystallized. Moscow initially supported the creation of the state of Israel, hoping that it would be a thorn in the side of the "imperialist" West, and the Soviet Union was the first country in the world to recognize Israel when it was established in May 1948. However, Stalin miscalculated: Over the coming years, Israel built up a special relationship with the USA, not with the Soviet Union, and Stalin spent the final years before his death in 1953 consumed with anti-Semitic conspiracy theories. By this time Philby was no longer working on Zionist

matters for SIS, and therefore not for the KGB either. In the absence of still-closed KGB archives, Philby's precise role in Zionist matters must remain a matter for speculation. Nevertheless, Moscow certainly would have been interested to learn, through him, that London suspected Soviet involvement in Zionist terrorism.

TOGETHER WITH ITS COUNTERTERRORIST OPERATIONS in Britain, in the immediate post-war years Britain's intelligence services were also assessing and countering Jewish "illegal" immigration to Palestine. In fact, MI5 and SIS helped to shape the British government's overall response to this immigration. In 1939 a quota system was established which limited the number of Jewish immigrants to Palestine to 7,500 per year. Immigration above that number was termed "illegal" by the British government. Then as now, "illegal immigration" was a term fraught with controversy, and a fierce debate about it raged between Zionist politicians and the British government. MI5's role in it was not to debate the moral and legal aspects of Jewish immigration into Palestine, but to produce dispassionate assessments for Whitehall about its security implications.

MI5's overall assessment was that mass Jewish immigration to Palestine would almost certainly cause civil war between Jews and Arabs, as it had threatened to do during the "Arab Revolt" in the 1930s. The main policy devised by the British authorities to prevent "illegal" immigration was to intercept refugee ships. Detention centers were established in Cyprus to house intercepted refugees, who were then permitted to enter Palestine through the quota system. This was, however, another public relations disaster for the British government, whose critics accused it of establishing "Nazi-style concentration camps." The British also deported some Irgun and Stern fighters to detention centers in Eritrea, which again attracted claims that they were no better than the Nazis. Such criticism sometimes came from surprising quarters, not least from the assistant secretary at the Colonial Office, Trafford Smith, who privately detailed his despair:

The plain truth to which we so firmly shut our eyes is that in this emergency Detention business we are taking a leaf out of the Nazi book, following the familiar error that the end justifies the means (especially when the means serve current expediency). We are out to suppress terrorism, and because we can find no better means we order measures which are intrinsically wrong, and which, since their consequence is evident to the whole world, let us in for a lot of justifiable and unanswerable criticism.

Rather than pursuing the ill-conceived and counterproductive measures of deporting and detaining Jewish refugees, MI5 advised the cabinet and the chiefs of staff to concentrate their efforts on preventing "illegal" immigration "at source." With the

assistance of SIS, MI5 identified a number of South American and Greek shipping companies that chartered vessels to Jewish refugees, and the Foreign Office was able to exert pressure on these governments to prevent companies registered in their countries from carrying out this practice. The operations appeared to have an impact. An MI5 report stated that by 1948 "only 1 out of some 30 ships carrying illegal immigrants reached their destination."

While MI5 made assessments and was involved in defensive measures to counter unrestricted Jewish migration to Palestine, Britain's other intelligence services attempted actively to subvert the flow of migrants. In February 1947 SIS carried out an operation, appropriately codenamed Embarrass, for "direction action." A small team, mostly comprised of former SOE personnel, was recruited to attach limpet mines to refugee ships and disable them before they could set sail. In the summer of 1947 the team mined five ships in Italian ports — having first checked that no one was on board. Nevertheless, if Operation Embarrass had been made public, the fact that SIS agents were mining boats containing Holocaust survivors would have been disastrous for the British government.

OPERATION EMBARRASS did not stop there. When some of the mines were discovered, SIS blamed them first on a fictitious Arab opposition group, the "Defenders of Arab Palestine," and then on the Soviet government. It obtained typewriters that were known to be used by dissident Arab groups and Soviet authorities, and used them to type letters implicating both groups, which it then carefully leaked around Whitehall. In a further twist, SIS made it appear that the British government was using the traffic of Jewish refugees to get its own agents out of Europe, hoping thereby to get the Soviets to block the flow of migrants to Palestine. SIS therefore attempted to deceive not only Jewish refugees, Arab opposition groups and the Soviet government, but the British government itself. This was truly the stuff of smoke and mirrors. Britain's policy of limiting Jewish immigration to Palestine, both overt and covert, was beset with controversy and resentment. It was, however, symptomatic of a much deeper problem that undermined British rule in Palestine: Britain was faced with a range of contradictory demands regarding the future of the Mandate — from Jews, Arabs and world opinion at large. In early 1946 an Anglo-American committee of inquiry was appointed to find a settlement in Palestine, but despite the best efforts of its members, who in April 1946 recommended that a compromise be found so that Jews should not dominate Arabs in Palestine, nor Arabs dominate Jews, the committee's findings were not accepted by either party. By September 1947 the JIC in London was painting a gloomy picture for the British government of the future of the Mandate, concluding that any settlement would

be unacceptable either to Jews or Arabs. Britain found itself in a situation that was rapidly becoming ungovernable. In 1947 100,000 troops — one-tenth of the military manpower of the entire British empire — were tied down in Palestine, a financial burden that London could not afford.

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Tags: [Britain](#), [Default](#), [EXCERPT](#), [Free](#), [History](#), [Intelligence](#), [Israel/Palestine](#), [Middle East](#), [Terrorism](#), [Web Exclusive](#)

^ Comment

http://foreignpolicy.com/comments/view/?view_post_comments=http%3A%2F%2Fforeignpolicy.com%2F2014%2F01%2F01%2Fhow-zionist-extremism-became-british-spies-biggest-enemy%2F

jtap_27 Jan 27, 2015 *using this for my research paper...anyone happen to know the volume # and issue #?*

Matt McLaughlin Jan 5, 2014 *thanks for the info, really.*

arvay Jan 5, 2014 *Exposing the terrorist roots of Zionism is splendid work, for which the world and especially the US should be grateful. Next: Exposing Saudi Arabia as a Terrorist Enemy of the US <http://nypost.com/2013/12/15/inside-the-saudi-911-coverup/>*

For sure FP can do much better job than the New York Post

drmsb Jan 4, 2014 *Excellent piece. Shows that terrorism actually works, I suppose. I didn't know that the Terrorist State also owes its inception to terrorism, but not surprised either.*

jgarbuz Jan 4, 2014@drmsb *Actually, Menachem Begin learned from Michael Collins of the IRA.*

Felix Drost Jan 3, 2014 *An exemplary piece of revisionism this is. Poor Albion, at the mercy of these perfidious Zionist thugs. What a joke.*

jgarbuz Jan 3, 2014 *Actually, I believe that it was Menachem Begin in his famous memoir "The Revolt" who coined the term "freedom fighter."*

jgarbuz Jan 3, 2014 *Menachem Begin's nom de guerre was "Michael," so self-named after his Irish hero Michael Collins who led the terrorist campaign against British*

imperialism in Ireland. After 1939, when the British began to act as the colonial master rather than the designated administrator of the League of Nation's Mandate granting the Jews a National Home in Palestine, that is when "The Revolt" against British imperialism began. And when after the Holocaust, the British government under Bevin only continued its aberrant policy of keeping Holocaust survivors from returning to their National Home, that is when the Haganah too finally joined in. Earlier on, they had collaborated with the British administration to ferret out the right wing underground leadership.

squint Jan 3, 2014 *The Brits continue their anti-Jewish policy even today and continue to come down on the wrong side of history. They were allied with the Sunni muslims of Jerusalem during the war, who in turn were allied with the Third Reich and hoped to continue the eradication of the Jews. And now today, the Sunnis and the Shiites of the region fight each other for the honor of leading the take-down of the West while Israel is an island of democracy and technology innovation. MI-5 would do well to use its resources to track muslim terrorists within the muslim no-go zones of the UK.*

BlueMike Jan 3, 2014 *Menachem Begin eluded the Palestine police by "a series of clever disguises." Well, flag on the playing field! No fair being clever when dealing with the British. They're just not up to it.*

I wonder whether Jewish resistance had anything to do with the fact that Britain was in breach of its fiduciary obligations as Mandatory, with a duty to promote Jewish immigration and the establishment of a Jewish state. An Arab state was not contemplated by treaty or the customary law of nations west of the Jordan River. Britain perfidiously created an Arab state east of the Jordan River by hacking off 80 percent of the Mandate territory. That state is called Jordan.

Now let's have some articles about other independence movements that used counter-violence against Britain which was a colonialist regime, after all, and fair game.

Stephen Swain Jan 3, 2014 *As one former Israeli PM used to say: Teh -rror- rrrism, with his basso profundo. They knew from terrorism because they had been terrorists themselves. I suspect that the bearded man in the photo is: Menachim Begin, before he lost his hair.*

bilejones Jan 2, 2014 *And the Zionists continue to be the main threat.*

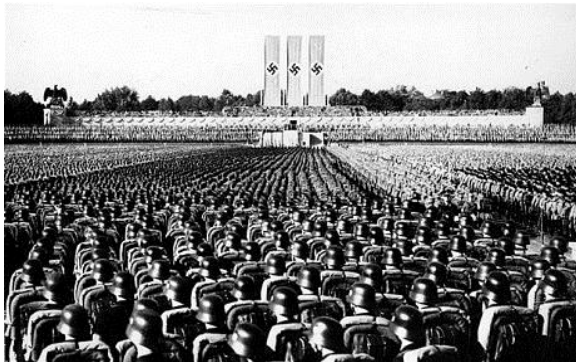
BlueMike Jan 3, 2014**@bilejones***To the British Empire?*

jgarbuz Jan 3, 2014 **@BlueMike@bilejones** *No, a threat to the Caliphate.*

^ 21. MI5 Files: Zionist Terrorist Plotted To Kill Winston Churchill

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/history/world-war-two/8425271/MI5-files-Zionist-terrorist-plotted-to-kill-Winston-Churchill.html>

A Zionist terrorist planned to assassinate Winston Churchill in order to secure a Jewish state, MI5 records show.



The plan was so the Nazi party could, in time, reappear in a suitable disguise and build up a fourth Reich Photo: AP

By [DUNCAN GARDHAM](#), Security Correspondent 8:04PM BST 03 Apr 2011

ELIYAHU BET-ZURI SUGGESTED sending agents of the Stern Gang, a terrorist group dedicated to forcing the British out of Palestine, to London to kill the prime minister.

MI5 was concerned that Jewish extremists might try to assassinate other leading British politicians, in particular the post-war foreign secretary Ernest Bevin, files released to the National Archives reveal.

Major James Robertson, from the agency's Middle East section, said threats made by Bet-Zuri in November 1944 were disclosed by another member of the Stern Gang who was arrested in April 1945.

The suspect revealed: "As soon as he [Bet-Zuri] returned to Stern Group headquarters he proposed to suggest a plan for the assassination of highly placed British political personalities, including Mr. Churchill, for which purpose emissaries should be sent to London."

But Maj Robertson noted: "The above information does not, as you will see, amount to very much.

"It does, however, I think justify us in assuming that the danger of attempts on the lives of important people here is still one which we must reckon carefully."

Bet-Zuri was hanged in 1945 for murdering Lord Moyne, the UK's minister resident in the Middle East and a close friend of Churchill, in Cairo in November 1944.

AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR there was a sharp rise in Zionist terrorism in Palestine, which was still administered by Britain, in an attempt to put pressure on Clement Attlee's Labour government to create a Jewish state.

In February 1946 the British defence security officer in Palestine sent a secret coded telegram back to London revealing intelligence from "reliable sources" about a plot to kill British ministers.

He wrote: "Stern Group are training members to go to England to assassinate members of His Majesty's Government, especially Mr Bevin...

"Stern further reported to be receiving practical sympathy from important Jews (in) Palestine. A steady flow of recruits for Stern being received in this connection."

In June that year Maj Robertson told Scotland Yard's Special Branch of reports that a recent surge in terrorist activity in Palestine was partly down to a speech made by Bevin in Bournemouth.

He wrote: "This speech is stated to have caused considerable bitterness among the Jewish community in Palestine. A typical Jewish 'man in the street', for example, described the speech as the most anti-Semitic ever delivered by a British statesman."

Fears were heightened in July 1946 when Jewish resistance group Irgun bombed the King David Hotel, the main British administrative centre in Jerusalem, killing 91 people.

The next day MI5 raised concerns about the possibility of Bevin being murdered if he went ahead with plans to visit Egypt to sign a treaty.

A memo noted: "There would obviously be considerable danger of an attempt on his life, either by parties opposed to the treaty or by the Irgun or Stern...

"The fact was that if a fanatic intended to carry out an assassination and was prepared to disregard his own safety there would be very little that he could not do."

And a secret telegram sent to MI5 from Security Intelligence Middle East warned: "Likelihood of terrorist attack on foreign secretary during proposed visit to Egypt is almost household word in Middle East."

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^ 22. This Week in History: The King David Hotel Bombing

<http://www.jpost.com/Features/In-Thespotlight/This-Week-in-History-The-King-David-Hotel-bombing>

By bombing J'lem hotel, Irgun believed it could send strong message to British, whom it actively fought to end Mandate, establish Jewish State.

By **MICHAEL OMER-MAN** July 22, 2011 10:10 3 minute read.



King David Hotel 311.

(Photo credit: **ARIEL JEROZOLIMSKI**)

ON JULY 22, 1946, three phone calls were placed to the King David Hotel, an adjacent building and to *The Jerusalem Post* (then *The Palestine Post*), warning of an imminent bombing. Minutes later, a blast ripped through the historic hotel and then-headquarters of the British Mandate for

Palestine's civilian and military authorities, killing 91 people and injuring nearly 50.

In 1946, the King David Hotel was the headquarters of the British Mandate government, housing much of its intelligence apparatus and top military, intelligence and civilian officials. Several weeks earlier, British authorities had raided the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem and seized a massive amount of secret documents containing sensitive information about Jewish resistance fighters and operations. The documents were believed to have been brought to the British intelligence offices at the hotel for analysis.

The Irgun Zva'I Leumi (Irgun), led at the time by Menachem Begin, was furious about the British raids. The organization feared that details of its operations and the identity of its operatives would be compromised when the seized documents were examined. The Irgun also wanted to retaliate for the arrest of some 2,500 Jews – mostly fighters – in the raids the month before.

By bombing the hotel, the Irgun believed, it could destroy the seized documents and at the same time send a strong message to the British, whom it was actively fighting as part of the Zionist bid to end the Mandate and establish a Jewish state.

ON THE MORNING OF JULY 22, Irgun members disguised as Arab hotel workers managed to sneak into the basement kitchen of the King David Hotel carrying milk cans filled with nearly 800 lbs of explosives. The cans were placed near support columns in the hotel's southern wing, which housed the British military headquarters. Soon after placing the bombs, the Irgun operatives detonated a small explosive outside the hotel, with the intention of clearing the vicinity of civilians.

Shortly after noon that day, a teenage Irgun member made three phone calls in a matter of minutes, warning that a bomb had been placed in the hotel. The first call, placed to the hotel's switchboard was received but most likely ignored and not passed on to the relevant authorities. The second call was to the French Consulate, situated across the street from the hotel. The final warning call was placed to The Palestine Post, whose employees passed along the warning to British authorities. The final warning call did lead to a search of the hotel in which the bombs were discovered, but it was too late.

Minutes after discovering the suspect milk cans in the hotel's basement, at 12:37 p.m., a massive blast rocked the King David's southern wing, causing immense structural damage and killing 91 people, including British military and civilian authorities as well as local Jews and Arabs who were in the hotel at the time.

Following the attack, the British authorities launched a massive wave of arrests targeting Jewish fighters throughout Mandate Palestine. Thousands were rounded up and arrested.

The bombing was nearly universally condemned by both Jewish and British authorities. David Ben-Gurion, in one of many clashes with the rival Irgun, called the organization an "enemy of the Jewish people" in the blast's aftermath. Relations between Ben-Gurion's Hagana and Begin's Irgun never recovered, ultimately resulting in the end of the Irgun as an operative military organization two years later with the [Altalena incident](#).

Despite the target of the bombing being the British Mandate military headquarters, the attack was widely considered an act of terrorism at the time due to the high number of civilian casualties it caused. To this day, the British refer to the bombing as a terrorist attack. Most recently, the British protested a 2006 ceremony commemorating the 60-year anniversary of the bombing held at the hotel, attended by now-Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

The bombing, which remains the deadliest to have taken place in Israel since, is rarely called an act of terrorism today in Israel. Part of the long campaign for independence against the ruling British Mandate government at the time, it is thought of as one of several key events that led the British to re-evaluate their long-term presence in then-Palestine. Although not directly, it would be difficult to diminish the importance of role that the King David Hotel bombing played in ending the Mandate, helping lead to the establishment of the State of Israel less than two years later.

Tags: [Israel](#) [Menachem Begin](#) [British mandate](#)

^ 23. Zionist Political Violence WIKI

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionist_political_violence

Zionist political violence or refers to acts of violence or terror [[citation needed](#)] committed by [Zionists](#).

Actions have been carried out by individuals and Jewish paramilitary groups such as the [Irgun](#), the [Lehi](#), the [Haganah](#) and the [Palmach](#) as part of a conflict between Jews, [British](#) authorities, and [Palestinian Arabs](#), regarding land, immigration, and control over Palestine.^{[[1](#)]}

British soldiers and officials, [United Nations](#) personnel, Palestinian Arab fighters and civilians, and Jewish fighters and civilians have been targets or victims of these actions. Domestic, commercial, and government property, infrastructure, and material have also been attacked.



Aftermath of the [King David Hotel bombing](#), 1946

Contents: [1. Main occurrences](#) [2. Condemnation as terrorism](#) [3. Jewish public opinion](#)

[4. Selected Irgun, Haganah and Lehi attacks](#) [5. See also](#) [6. References](#) [7. Sources](#)

1. Main occurrences

During [World War I](#), Zionist volunteers fought in the [Jewish Legion](#) of the [British Army](#) against the [Ottoman Turks](#)

DURING THE [1920 NEBI MUSA RIOTS](#), the 1921 [Jaffa riots](#) and the [1929 Palestine riots](#), Palestinian Arabs manifested hostility against Zionist immigration, which provoked the reaction of Jewish militias.^[2] In 1935, the [Irgun](#), a Zionist underground military organization, split off from the [Haganah](#).^[3] The Irgun were the armed expression of the nascent ideology of [Revisionist Zionism](#) founded by [Ze'ev Jabotinsky](#). He expressed this [ideology](#) as "every Jew had the right to enter Palestine; only active retaliation would deter the Arab and the British; only Jewish armed force would ensure the Jewish state".^[4]

During the [1936–39 Arab revolt in Palestine](#), Palestinian Arabs fought for the end of the Mandate and the creation of an Arab state based on the whole of Palestine. They attacked both British and Jews as well as some Palestinian Arabs who supported a [Pan-Arabism](#). Mainstream Zionists, represented by the [Vaad Leumi](#) and the Haganah, practiced the policy of [Havlagah](#) (restraint), while Irgun militants did not follow this policy and called themselves "Havlagah breakers."^[5] The Irgun began bombing Palestinian Arab civilian targets in 1938.^[3] While the Palestinian Arabs were "carefully disarmed" by the British Mandatory authorities by 1939, the Zionists were not.^[3]

After the beginning of [World War II](#), the Haganah and Irgun suspended their activity against the British in support of their war against [Nazi Germany](#).^[6] The smaller [Lehi](#) continued anti-British attacks and [direct action](#) throughout the war. At that time, the British also supported the creation and the training of [Palmach](#), as a unit that could withstand a German offensive in the area, with the consent of [Yishuv](#) which saw an opportunity to get trained units and soldiers for the planned Jewish state^[7] and during 1944–1945, the most mainstream Jewish paramilitary organization, Haganah, cooperated with the British authorities against the Lehi and Etzel.^[8]

After World War II, between 1945 and the [29 November 1947 Partition vote](#), British soldiers and [policemen](#) were [targeted by Irgun and Lehi](#). Haganah and [Palmah](#) first collaborated with the British against them, particularly during [the Hunting Season](#), before actively joining them in the [Jewish Resistance Movement](#), then finally choosing an official neutral position after 1946 while the Irgun and the Lehi went on their attacks against the British.^[9]

The Haganah carried out violent attacks in Palestine, such as the liberation of interned immigrants from the [Atlit](#) camp, the bombing of the country's railroad network,

sabotage raids on radar installations and bases of the British Palestine police. It also continued to organize illegal immigration.[\[10\]](#)

IN FEBRUARY 1947, the British announced that they would end the mandate and withdraw from Palestine and they asked the arbitration of the [United Nations](#). After the vote of the Partition Plan for Palestine on 30 November 1947, [civil war broke out in Palestine](#). Jewish and Arab communities fought each other violently in campaigns of attacks, retaliations and counter-retaliations which provoked around 800 deaths after two months. Arab volunteers entered Palestine to fight alongside the Palestinian Arabs. In April, 6 weeks before the termination of the Mandate, the Jewish militias launched wide operations to control the territory dedicated to them by the Partition Plan.[\[11\]](#) [Many atrocities occurred](#) during this time. The Arab population in the mixed cities of [Tiberias](#), [Safed](#), [Haifa](#), [Jaffa](#), [Beisan](#) and [Acre](#) and in the neighbouring villages fled or were expelled during this period. During the [Battle for Jerusalem \(1948\)](#) where the Jewish community of 100,000 people was besieged, most Arab villages of the [Tel Aviv – Jerusalem corridor](#) were captured by Jewish militias and leveled.[\[12\]](#)

At the beginning of the civil war, the Jewish militias organized several bombing attacks against civilians and military Arab targets. On 12 December, Irgun placed a car bomb opposite the Damascus Gate, killing 20 people.[\[13\]](#) On 4 January 1948, the Lehi detonated a lorry bomb against the headquarters of the paramilitary [Najjada](#) located in [Jaffa's](#) Town Hall, killing 15 Arabs and injuring 80.[\[13\]\[14\]](#) During the night between 5 and 6 January, the Haganah bombed the [Semiramis Hotel](#) in Jerusalem that had been reported to hide Arab militiamen, killing 24 people.[\[15\]](#) The next day, Irgun members in a stolen police van rolled a [barrel bomb](#)[\[16\]](#) into a large group of civilians who were waiting for a bus by the [Jaffa Gate](#), killing around 16.[\[17\]](#) Another Irgun bomb went off in the Ramla market on February 18, killing 7 residents and injuring 45.[\[18\]](#) On 28 February, the Palmah organised a bombing attack against a garage at Haifa, killing 30 people.[\[19\]](#)

2. Condemnation as terrorism



[Hannah Arendt](#), [Jessurun Cardozo](#), [Albert Einstein](#) and others letter

Irgun was described as a [terrorist](#) organization by the United Nations, British, and [United States](#) governments, and in media such as [The New York Times](#) newspaper, [\[20\]](#)[\[21\]](#) and by the [Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry](#). [\[22\]](#) In 1946, The World Zionist Congress strongly condemned terrorist activities in Palestine and "the shedding of innocent blood as a means of political warfare". Irgun was specifically

condemned. [\[23\]](#)

[Menachem Begin](#) was called a [terrorist](#) and a [fascist](#) by [Albert Einstein](#) and 27 other prominent Jewish intellectuals in a letter to the New York Times which was published on December 4, 1948. Specifically condemned was the participation of the Irgun in the Deir Yassin massacre: [\[24\]](#)

- "terrorist bands attacked this peaceful village, which was not a military objective in the fighting, killed most of its inhabitants – 240 men, women and children – and kept a few of them alive to parade as captives through the streets of Jerusalem."

The letter warns [American Jews](#) against supporting Begin's request for funding of his political party [Herut](#), and ends with the warning:

- "The discrepancies between the bold claims now being made by Begin and his party and their record of past performance in Palestine bear the imprint of no ordinary political party. This is the unmistakable stamp of a Fascist party for whom terrorism (against Jews, Arabs, and British alike), and misrepresentation are means, and a "Leader State" is the goal." [\[24\]](#)

Lehi was described as a [terrorist](#) organization [\[25\]](#) by the British authorities and United Nations mediator [Ralph Bunche](#). [\[26\]](#)

3. Jewish public opinion

During the conflict between Arabs and Jews in Palestine before the war, the criterion of "[Purity of arms](#)" was used to distinguish between the respective attitudes of the Irgun and Haganah towards Arabs, with the latter priding itself on its adherence to principle. [\[27\]](#) The Jewish society in the British Mandate Palestine generally disapproved

and denounced violent attacks both on grounds moral rejection and political disagreement, stressing that terrorism is counter-productive in the Zionist quest for Jewish self-determination. [8] Generally speaking, this precept requires that "weapons remain pure [and that] they are employed only in self-defence and [never] against innocent civilians and defenceless people". [28] But if it "remained a central value in education" it was "rather vague and intentionally blurred" at the practical level. [27]

IN 1946, AT A MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE HEADS OF THE HAGANAH, [David Ben-Gurion](#) predicted a confrontation between the Arabs of Palestine and the Arab states. Concerning the "principle of purity of arms", he stressed that: "The end does not justify all means. Our war is based on moral grounds" [29] and during the 1948 War, the [Mapam](#), the political party affiliated to Palmach, asked "a strict observance of the Jewish [Purity of arms](#) to secure the moral character of [the] war". [30] When he was later criticized by Mapam members for his attitude concerning the [Arab refugee problem](#), Ben-Gurion reminded them of the [Palestinian exodus from Lydda and Ramle](#) and the fact Palmah officers had been responsible for the "outrage that had encouraged the Arabs' flight made the party uncomfortable." [30]

According to [Avi Shlaim](#), this condemnation of the use of violence is one of the key features of 'the conventional Zionist account or old history' whose 'popular-heroic-moralistic version' is 'taught in Israeli schools and used extensively in the quest for legitimacy abroad'. [28] [Benny Morris](#) adds that '[t]he Israelis' collective memory of fighters characterized by "purity of arms" is also undermined by the evidence of [the dozen case] of rapes committed in conquered towns and villages.' According to him, 'after the 1948 war, the Israelis tended to hail the "purity of arms" of its militiamen and soldiers to contrast this with Arab barbarism, which on occasion expressed itself in the mutilation of captured Jewish corpses.' According to him, 'this reinforced the Israelis' positive self-image and helped them "sell" the new state abroad and (...) demonized the enemy'. [31]

Some Israelis justify acts of political violence. Sixty years after participating in the assassination of Count Bernadotte, Geula Cohen had no regrets. As a broadcaster on Lehi's radio, she recalled the threats against Bernadotte in advance of the assassination. "I told him if you are not going to leave Jerusalem and go to your Stockholm, you won't be any more." Asked if it was right to assassinate Bernadotte, she replied, "There is no question about it. We would not have Jerusalem anymore." [32] In July 2006, the [Menachem Begin Heritage Center](#) organized a conference to mark the 60th anniversary of the [King David Hotel bombing](#). The conference was attended by past and future


PRIME MINISTER [BENJAMIN NETANYAHU](#) AND FORMER MEMBERS OF IRGUN.^[33] The British Ambassador in Tel Aviv and the Consul-General in Jerusalem protested that a plaque commemorating the bombing stated "For reasons known only to the British, the hotel was not evacuated."^[33] Netanyahu, then chairman of [Likud](#) and [Leader of the Opposition](#) in the [Knesset](#), opined that the bombing was a legitimate act with a military target, distinguishing it from an act of terror intended to harm civilians, since Irgun sent warnings to evacuate the building.^[34] He said "Imagine that Hamas or Hizbullah would call the military headquarters in Tel Aviv and say, 'We have placed a bomb and we are asking you to evacuate the area.' They don't do that. That is the difference."^[35] The British Ambassador in Tel Aviv and the Consul-General in Jerusalem protested, saying "We do not think that it is right for an act of terrorism, which led to the loss of many lives, to be commemorated", and wrote to the Mayor of [Jerusalem](#) that such an "act of terror" could not be honored. The British government also demanded the removal of the plaque, pointing out that the statement on it accusing the British of failing to evacuate the hotel was untrue and "did not absolve those who planted the bomb."^[36] To prevent a diplomatic incident, changes were made in the plaque's text. The final English version says "Warning phone calls have been made to the hotel, The Palestine Post and the French Consulate, urging the hotel's occupants to leave immediately. The hotel was not evacuated and after 25 minutes the bombs exploded. To the Irgun's regret, 92 persons were killed."^[35]

4. Selected Irgun, Haganah and Lehi attacks

Main articles: [List of Irgun attacks](#) and [Killings and massacres during the 1948 Palestine War](#)

- **June 30, 1924.** Dutch Jew [Jacob Israël de Haan](#) was assassinated by [Avraham Tehomi](#) on the orders of Haganah leader [Yitzhak Ben-Zvi](#)^[37] for his anti-Zionist political activities and contacts with Arab leaders.^[38]
- **1937–1939** The Irgun conducted a campaign of violence against Palestinian Arab civilians resulting in the deaths of at least 250.^{[39][40]}
- **July 15, 1938*** A bomb left in the vegetable market in Jerusalem by the Irgun injured 28.^[41]
- **July 25, 1938*** The Irgun threw a bomb into the melon market in Haifa resulting in 49 deaths.^[42]
- **November 6, 1944** Lehi assassinated British minister [Lord Moyne](#) in [Cairo, Egypt](#). The action was condemned by the [Yishuv](#) at the time, but the bodies of the assassins were brought home from Egypt in 1975 to a state funeral and burial on [Mount Herzl](#).^[43]

- **1944–1945** The killings of several suspected collaborators with the Haganah and the British mandate government during [the Hunting Season](#).
- **1946'** Letter bombs sent to British officials, including foreign minister Ernst Bevin, by **Lehi**.
- **July 26, 1946** The bombing of British administrative headquarters at the [King David Hotel](#), killing 91 people — 28 British, 41 Arab, 17 Jewish, and 5 others. Around 45 people were injured. In the literature about the [practice](#) and [history of terrorism](#), it has been called one of the most lethal terrorist attacks of the 20th century.[\[44\]](#)
- **1946** Railways and British military airfields were attacked several times.
- **October 31, 1946** The bombing by the Irgun of the British Embassy in Rome. Nearly half the building was destroyed and 3 people were injured.[\[45\]](#)
- **April 16, 1947*** An Irgun bomb placed at the Colonial Office in London failed to detonate.[\[46\]](#) The woman arrested for planting the bomb, alias "Esther," was identified as a Jewess claiming French nationality by the Scotland Yard unit investigating Jewish terrorist activities. The attack was linked to the 1946 Rome embassy bombing.[\[47\]\[48\]](#)
- **14 June 1947** The [Reuters](#) office in Tel Aviv was raided by "Jewish terrorists."[\[49\]](#)
- **July 25, 1947** [The Sergeants affair](#): When death sentences were passed on two Irgun members, the Irgun kidnapped Sgt. Clifford Martin and Sgt. Mervyn Paice and threatened to kill them in retaliation if the sentences were carried out. When the threat was ignored, the hostages were killed. Afterwards, their bodies were taken to an orange grove and left hanging by the neck from trees. An [improvised explosive device](#) was set. This went off when one of the bodies was cut down, seriously wounding a British officer.[\[47\]](#)
- **December 1947 – March 1948** Numerous attacks on Palestinian Arabs in the context of civil war after the vote of the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine.
- **'1947** Letter bombs sent to the Truman White House by Lehi.
- **January 5–6, 1948** The [Semiramis Hotel bombing](#), carried out by the Haganah (or, according to some sources, Irgun) resulted in the deaths of 24 to 26 people.
- **April 1948** The Deir Yassin massacre carried out by the Irgun and Lehi, killed between 107 and 120 Palestinian villagers,[\[48\]](#) the estimate generally accepted by scholars.[\[49\]\[50\]](#)
- **September 17, 1948** Lehi assassination of the United Nations mediator [Folke Bernadotte](#),[\[51\]\[52\]](#) whom Lehi accused of a pro-Arab stance during the cease-fire negotiations.

5. See also:  [Israel portal](#) [Israeli settler violence](#) [Jewish religious terrorism](#) [Nationalism](#) [Nationalist terrorism](#) [Palestinian political violence](#) [Violence in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict](#)

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^ 24. A Massacre of Arabs Masked By a State Of National Amnesia

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/a-massacre-of-arabs-masked-by-a-state-of-national-amnesia-1970018.html>

Sixty years on, the true story of the slaughter of Palestinians at Deir Yassin may finally come out

By: [CATRINA STEWART](#) Sunday 9 May 2010 23:00 BST [1 comment](#)



MORE THAN ONE UNWITTING visitor to Jerusalem has fallen prey to the bizarre delusion that they are the Messiah. Usually, they are whisked off to the serene surroundings of Kfar Shaul psychiatric hospital on the outskirts of the city, where they are gently nursed back to health.

It is an interesting irony that the patients at Kfar Shaul recuperate from such variations on amnesia on the very spot that Israel has sought to erase from its collective memory.

The place is Deir Yassin. An Arab village cleared out in 1948 by Jewish forces in a brutal battle just weeks before Israel was formed, Deir Yassin has come to symbolise perhaps more than anywhere else the Palestinian sense of dispossession.

Sixty-two years on, what really happened at Deir Yassin on 9 April remains obscured by lies, exaggerations and contradictions. Now Ha'aretz, a liberal Israeli newspaper, is seeking to crack open the mystery by petitioning Israel's High Court of Justice to release written and photographic evidence buried deep in military archives. Palestinian survivors of Deir Yassin, a village of around 400 inhabitants, claim the Jews committed a wholesale massacre there, spurring Palestinians to flee in the thousands, and undermining the long-held Israeli narrative that they left of their own accord.

Israel's opposing version contends that Deir Yassin was the site of a pitched battle after Jewish forces faced unexpectedly strong resistance from the villagers. All of the casualties, it is argued, died in combat.

In 2006, an Israeli arts student, Neta Shoshani, applied for access to the Deir Yassin archives for a university project, believing a 50-year embargo on the secret documents had expired eight years previously. She was granted limited access to the material, but was informed that there was an extended ban on the more sensitive documents. When

a lawyer demanded an explanation, it emerged that a ministerial committee only extended the ban more than a year after Ms. Shoshani's first request, exposing the state to a legal challenge. The current embargo runs until 2012.

DEFENDING ITS RIGHT TO KEEP THE DOCUMENTS UNDER WRAPS, the Israeli state has argued that their publication would tarnish the country's image abroad and inflame Arab-Israeli tensions. Ha'aretz and Ms Shoshani have countered that the public have a right to know and confront their past.

Judges, who have viewed all the archived evidence held by the Israeli state on Deir Yassin, have yet to make a decision on what, if anything, to release. Among the documents believed to be in the state's possession is a damning report written by Meir Pa'il, a Jewish officer who condemned his compatriots for bloodthirsty and shameful conduct on that day. Equally incriminating are the many photographs that survive.

"The photos clearly show there was a massacre," says Daniel McGowan, a US retired professor who works with Deir Yassin Remembered. "Those photos show [villagers] lined up against a quarry wall and shot."

In 1947, the United Nations proposed a partition plan that would divide Palestine into a Jewish and Arab state, with Jerusalem an international city. The Arabs fiercely opposed the plan and clashes broke out as both sides scrambled for territory before the British mandate expired. In April 1948, the Hagana, the predecessor of the Israeli army, launched a military operation to secure safe passage between Jewish areas by taking Arab villages on high ground above the road to Jerusalem.

Irgun and the Stern Gang, breakaway paramilitary groups, drew up separate plans to take the strategic Deir Yassin in a pre-dawn raid on 9 April 1948, even though the villagers had signed a non-aggression pact with the Jews and had stuck to it. What happened next is still under debate. In his book *The Revolt*, Menachim Begin, a future Israeli prime minister, recounts how the Jewish forces used a loudspeaker to warn all the villagers to leave the village. Those that remained fought.

"Our men were compelled to fight for every house; to overcome the enemy they used large numbers of hand grenades," wrote Mr Begin, who was not present at the battle. "And the civilians who had disregarded our warnings suffered inevitable casualties. I am convinced that our officers and men wished to avoid a single unnecessary casualty."

Mr Begin's Account, however, is challenged by the recollections of survivors and eyewitnesses. Abdul-Kader Zidain was 22 years old in 1948, and immediately joined a

band of 30 fighters from the village to fend off the surprise Jewish offensive, even though they were clearly outnumbered.

"THEY WENT INTO THE HOUSES AND THEY SHOT THE PEOPLE INSIDE. They killed everybody they saw, women and children," said Mr Zidain, who lost four of his immediate family, including his father and two brothers, in the attack. Now a frail 84-year-old living in a West Bank village, he says he remembers everything as if it were yesterday. Survivor testimonies are supported by Mr Pa'il, whose detailed eyewitness account was published in 1998. Awaiting reassignment, he went to observe the attack as part of his remit to keep the Irgun and the Stern Gang in check.

After the fighting had wound down, Mr Pa'il described how he heard sporadic firing from the houses, and went to investigate. There he saw that the soldiers had stood the villagers in the corners of their homes and shot them dead. A short while later, he saw a group of around 25 prisoners being led to a quarry between Deir Yassin and neighbouring Givat Shaul. From a higher vantage point, he and a companion were able to see everything and take photographs. "There was a natural wall there, formed by digging. They stood the prisoners against that wall and shot the lot of them," he said. Mr Pa'il described how Jews from neighbouring Givat Shaul finally stepped in to stop the slaughter.

In the ensuing confusion and anger over the killings in Deir Yassin, both sides released an inflated Palestinian death toll for very different reasons: the Palestinians wanted to bolster resistance and attract the attention of the Arab nations they hoped would help them; the Jews wanted to scare the Palestinians into flight.

After the dust had settled, Mr Zidain and the other survivors counted the missing among them, and concluded that 105 Palestinians had died in Deir Yassin, not the 250 often reported. Four Jews were killed. But the damage was already done. The reports from Deir Yassin led to a total collapse of morale, and many historians regard the incident as the single biggest catalyst for the Palestinians' flight. By UN estimates, 750,000 Palestinians had fled their homes by the end of the 1948 War of Independence, roughly 60 per cent of Palestine's pre-war Arab population.

Mention Deir Yassin these days to most young Israelis and it will fail to register. Not far from the Kfar Shaul hospital, two teenage boys shake their heads at a question on Deir Yassin. Never heard of it, they say.

"Most Israelis treat the subject with total silence," says Professor McGowan. "They no longer deny it, they just don't talk about it."

The decision on whether that silence will now be broken remains in the hands of Israel's courts. "This was a big and important event in our history here. It was the first village we took and has a lot of meaning in the war that came after," says Ms Shoshani. "We have to deal with our past for our own sake."

More about: [Palestine](#) [Photography](#) [Prison](#)

1 Comment Jo Alex533 days ago

Just an excerpt of this article with the "Historical and Investigative Research",

by Francisco Gil-White: posted 9 Oct. 2005

"...These statements do not mesh with Dr. Engel's report and that of Drs. Avigdori and Druyan, who examined the bodies at Deir-Yassin and found no evidence of abuse or rape. According to their findings, all deaths were caused by gunshot wounds. ..."

<http://www.hirhome.com/israel/milstein-deir-yassin.htm>

^ Historian Uri Milstein Debunks the Myths of Deir Yassin

Historical and Investigative Research, posted 9 Oct. 2005 by Francisco Gil-White

(NOTE: This is a Pro-Israel, Pro-Zionist website by Francisco Gil-White.)

<http://www.hirhome.com/israel/milstein-deir-yassin.htm>

^ 25. Lehi (Group)

http://www.princeton.edu/~achaney/tmve/wiki100k/docs/Lehi_%28group%29.html

(NOTE: To read the complete article, please go to the web address or URL above)

Lehi (Hebrew pronunciation: [['lexi](#)] (Lohamei Herut Israel, "Fighters for the Freedom of Israel", לח"י - לוחמי חרות ישראל), commonly referred to as the **Stern Group** or **Stern Gang**,[\[1\]](#) was a militant [Zionist](#) group founded by [Avraham \("Yair"\) Stern](#) in the [British Mandate of Palestine](#).[\[2\]](#) Its avowed aim was forcibly evicting the [British](#) authorities from Palestine, allowing unrestricted [immigration](#) of [Jews](#) and the formation of a Jewish state.

Initially called the **National Military Organization in Israel**,[\[3\]](#) it was the smallest and most radical of [Mandatory Palestine](#)'s three Zionist paramilitary groups ([Haganah](#), [Irgun](#), and Lehi), and never had more than a few hundred members. Lehi split from the Irgun in

1940 and by 1948 was identified with both [religious Zionism](#) (although most members were not [Orthodox Jews](#)) and left-wing nationalism (despite most members wanting to remain politically unaligned).[\[4\]\[5\]](#)

Lehi assassinated [Lord Moyne](#), British Minister Resident in the Middle East, and made many other attacks on the British in Palestine. It was described as a terrorist organization by the British authorities.[\[6\]](#) Lehi assassinated [United Nations](#) mediator [Folke Bernadotte](#) and was banned by the [Israeli government](#).[\[7\]](#) The [United Nations Security Council](#) called the assassins "a criminal group of terrorists,"[\[8\]](#) and Lehi was similarly condemned by Folke's replacement as mediator, [Ralph Bunche](#).[\[9\]](#)

Lehi and Irgun were jointly responsible for the controversial attack on [Deir Yassin](#), often described as a massacre.

However, Israel granted a general amnesty to Lehi members on 14 February 1949. In 1980, Israel even instituted a military decoration, the [Lehi ribbon](#).[\[10\]](#) Former Lehi leader [Yitzhak Shamir](#) became [Prime Minister of Israel](#) in 1983.

Contents: [1 Founding of Lehi](#) [2 Goals and methods](#) [3 18 Principles of Rebirth](#)
[4 Relationship with fascism and socialism](#) [5 Evolution and tactics of the organization](#)
[6 Contact with Nazi Germany](#) [7 Later history](#) [7.1 Assassination of Lord Moyne](#)
[7.2 British police station in Haifa](#) [7.3 Death threat against Hugh Trevor-Roper](#)
[7.4 Cairo-Haifa train bombings](#) [7.5 Deir Yassin massacre](#)
[7.6 Dissolution](#) [7.7 Assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte](#) [7.8 Lehi in politics](#)
[8 Service ribbon](#) [9 The Lehi anthem "Unknown Soldiers"](#) [10 Prominent members of Lehi](#)
[11 See also](#) [12 Notes](#) [13 References](#) [14 External links](#) [Full article ►](#)

^ 26. British Imperialized Palestine:

(NOTE: It would appear as if the info has been removed. But keep searching, you might successful.)

<http://www.regentsprep.org/Regents/gl...>

N/A: <https://regentsprep.org/Regents/global/themes/imperialism/middleeast.cfm>

^ 27. Balfour Declaration 1917

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/balfour.asp November 2nd, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours sincerely, Arthur James Balfour

^ 28. Britain Must Atone For Its Sins in Palestine

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/palestinianauthority/9645925/Britain-must-atone-for-its-sins-in-Palestine.html>

Ever since the Balfour Declaration of 1917, Britain has denied our people their rights



On the run: Britain has not taken the steps to realise the establishment of a free state of Palestine Photo: Getty Images

By **NABEEL SHAATH** 8:59PM GMT 31 Oct 2012

OVER THE PAST FEW WEEKS, British diplomats have stated that they are doing all they can to discourage Palestine's bid for "observer state" status in the UN General Assembly. If this is an official British position, then it is reprehensible, yet not all that surprising.

Ninety-five years ago tomorrow, on November 2, 1917, British imperialism in Palestine began when Lord Balfour, the then British foreign secretary and former prime minister,

sent a letter to Baron Rothschild, one of the leaders of the Zionist movement. This letter became known as the “Balfour Declaration”.

IN THAT LETTER, Balfour promised British support for the Zionist programme of establishing a “national home for the Jewish people” in Palestine. This pledge of support was made without consulting the indigenous Christian and Muslim inhabitants of Palestine, the Palestinian people. And it was made before British troops had even conquered the land.

Balfour, on behalf of Britain, promised Palestine – over which Britain had no legal right – to a people who did not even live there (of the very small community of Palestinian Jews in Palestine in 1917, very few were Zionists). And he did so with the worst of intentions: to discourage Jewish immigration to Britain. No wonder Lord Montagu, the only Jewish member of the Cabinet, opposed the declaration.

And yet, just two years earlier, Britain had committed herself to assisting the Arab nations in achieving their independence from the Ottoman Empire. Arab fighters all over the region, including thousands of Palestinians, fought for their freedom, allowing Britain to establish her mandate in Palestine.

From that moment, Palestine became the victim of colonial conspiracies. The Balfour Declaration helped to encourage Zionist immigration into Palestine and away from America and Western Europe. Concomitantly, Britain repressed Palestinian nationalism, which was exemplified by its crushing of the Arab revolt of 1936-1939 and the denial of the right of the Palestinian people to express their will through their own representation. In fact, Britain suppressed Palestinian political representation through a policy of systematic denial of Palestinian political rights.

The dying days of Britain’s rule in Palestine were marked by destruction, blood, and the start of the Palestinian exile, meaning the expulsion of the majority of the Palestinian people against the backdrop of Zionist terrorism. It was not the Palestinians who blew up the King David Hotel, who blew up the British Embassy in Rome, who tried to assassinate Ernest Bevin, Britain’s foreign secretary, and who succeeded in assassinating Lord Moyne, British minister of state in the Middle East. That was the Irgun, an ideological Right-wing group – and the predecessor to Israel’s ruling Likud Party.

The British mandate was supposed to deliver independence to Palestine through the establishment of representative institutions. It was never meant permanently to thwart Palestinian national aspirations. Nor was it ever envisaged that the British mandate would end with a catastrophe in the form of the expulsion of the majority of the Palestinian people from their homeland.

WHEN BRITAIN DECIDED TO RELINQUISH Palestine to the UN in 1947, she was well aware that the Zionist movement was well established and equipped, while Palestinians were still healing from the effects of British colonialism during the years of the revolt.

Since the Palestinian catastrophe of 1948, during which approximately two thirds of the Palestinian people, Christians and Muslims, were expelled to become refugees, Britain has not done anything substantially to repair the suffering it has caused to the Palestinians. Britain has not met its historic responsibility. Successive British administrations have avoided repairing this injustice by making statements of goodwill instead of taking actions to end the Israeli occupation and support the Palestinian right to self-determination.

It is unacceptable that today, 65 years after the partition of Palestine, the UK has recognised the state of Israel but not the state of Palestine. It is unacceptable that, having invested large human and economic resources in the development of Palestinian institutions, the UK has not taken the necessary political and diplomatic steps to realise the establishment of a free and independent state of Palestine. Rather than continuing down this path, the UK, more than any other state, should stand behind the Palestinian endeavour towards the fulfilment of their national rights and aspirations, through supporting its application for enhancement of status at the UN.

Some argue that Palestine's recognition and enhanced status will not immediately end the occupation. None the less, it is a step in the right direction towards a peaceful solution, and it sends a strong message to Israel that the world will no longer tolerate its illegal and oppressive policies. For a country with the historic responsibility that the UK carries towards Palestine, a victim of British colonialism, this should be the least we can expect in order to repair decades of occupation and exile.

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